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The end of the line for village railway bridge?

By George Welch

DOZENS of angry residents have accused Network Rail of not providing suitable evidence to destroy a grade-II listed railway bridge.

The tracks operator has applied to demolish then reconstruct the bridge at Steventon and close off High Street as part of a 10-month project to electrify the railway.

The bridge could be closed in December, halting traffic until at least October 2018.

Councillors and residents voiced their opposition to the project at a Steventon Parish Council planning meeting at the village hall on Tuesday. They accused Network Rail of failing to fully justify their application and not properly considering alternatives.

Parish council chairman Chris Wilding said the railway operator had failed to present their application in a way "that shows their thinking to why they have dismissed certain options".

"There has been no consultation with local businesses or major stakeholders – it's going to have a big impact all around."

Due to the "exceptional engineering challenge" of electrifying the railway, Network Rail said it considered five options.

These included: fully lowering the track; partially lowering the track; implementing a permanent speed restriction; building a new bridge and link road; and reconstructing the bridge.

According to parish councillors, 32,000 vehicles pass over the bridge during an average week. On the eight occasions in the last 13 months the A34 has been unintentionally shut, this increased to 64,000.

The council said: "We intend to rebut this application in the strongest possible terms and hold this opaque, publicly-funded yet privately-operated organisation to a suitably high standard of evidence before they are permitted to embark on this poorly thought-out plan to destroy a historic listed structure and cause turmoil in the daily lives of thousands."

Steventon bridge would have a temporary foot and cycle bridge erected during reconstruction.

A Network Rail spokesman said: "Discussions are under way with Oxfordshire County Council about the road diversion that will be necessary and, should the application be approved, the agreed diversionary route will be publicised well in advance."

Vale of White Horse District Council has set a target decision date for June 22.

A bridge too far – residents and businesses make their protest at Steventon

Bridge closure will affect businesses – see page 3

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Fighting to win your vote

Candidates reveal issues they hope will win them a seat on June 8

Oxford East

Suzanne Bartington, Conservative

I understand firsthand the challenges facing the NHS. I want to work to deliver solutions that meet the needs of our communities. I am deeply concerned about the lack of affordable housing. It is essential there is a partnership approach to help people into home ownership.

Anneliese Dodds, Labour

I want to stand up for our local services. The NHS has great staff but is struggling with Tory under-investment and botched management.

Schools are not properly funded, and our social care system is not fit for purpose.

Our city faces a housing crisis.

Larry Sanders, Green

I will support Labour when they present sensible policies like a Living Wage and building council houses.

We can invest in renewable energy, provide high quality health and education services for all, build affordable homes and create millions of well paying jobs.

Kirsten Johnson, Liberal Democrat

I will fight to keep the UK in the single market, give EU citizens the right to remain and fight for freedom of movement. We will build half a million more affordable homes in the next parliament and bring back housing benefit for 18 to 21-year-olds.

Chaka Artwell, Independent

Affordable housing must mean housing commensurate with the average income of Oxford people, which is £25,000.

All Arabic civilians, hurt and made homeless by English bombs or military action, must be given medical care and a home in England.

Witney

Robert Courts, Conservative

Since October, I have been campaigning on all aspects of my plan, both locally and in Parliament. Education, healthcare, businesses, transport, broadband and housing development have dominated my postbag and I look forward to being given the chance to continue with this work.

Laetisia Carter, Labour

As a mother of two young children I feel I understand the struggles that local families face.

The Lib Dem and Conservative coalition did great damage.

Labour has costed plans to invest in the skills, health and future of everyone – for the many, not the few.

Liz Leffman, Liberal Democrat

We have a shortage of seven GPs in Witney alone and, with the closure of Deer Park, people have to wait up to five weeks for a GP appointment. My priority is to restore our health services, improve recruitment of GPs and keep hospitals in Witney and Chipping Norton open.

Claire Lasko, Green

My campaign will focus on the future not the past – the future of our young people, the future of our housing and the future of our planet.

Focusing on the housing crisis, fighting for young people and having a say in the Brexit deal, the Green Party stands up to self-serving politicking.

Alan Craig, UKIP

I am a Christian family man passionately interested in the UK achieving full Brexit and rejoining the world; in promoting the traditional family as the best place for the healthy nurture of children and the next generation; and in challenging growing Political Islam without Muslim-bashing.

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Oxford West and Abingdon

Nicola Blackwood, Conservative

I'll be fighting to get the best possible deal for Oxford West and Abingdon protecting local jobs and securing economic growth, funding our world-leading universities and ensuring access to skills.We need more affordable homes and investment in the A34.

Marie Tidball, Labour

We must ensure the rights of EU nationals are guaranteed, environmental safeguards are preserved and workers' rights are protected.

I will be an effective voice in our region for securing research funding for our universities and attracting investment in new industry.

Layla Moran, Liberal Democrat

My priorities include protecting the rights of EU citizens and safeguarding the effect of Brexit on our local economy, protecting the NHS and schools budgets and ensuring continued investment in the university and science.

We need investment in our future.

Alan Harris, UKIP

Only UKIP can promise the hard Brexit that people voted for. Immigration is a big issue and UKIP will fight to control it.

We will also take back our fishing waters, put more police on our streets and the money we save from not being in the EU will be put in to our NHS.

Businesses fear drastic loss of trade if bridge goes ahead

By George Welch

BUSINESS owners in Steventon High Street have hit out at the plans to close the railway bridge.

The main route through the village consists of pubs, a veterinary surgery, hairdresser, B&B, convenience store, post office and a sandwich shop – and they are worried for their futures.

Hamid Ghaffari, who has only owned Munchies for less than a month, described the closure as "outrageous".

He said: "There has to be another solution. Residents and businesses are not happy – it's going to impact our trade badly.

"It's difficult to quantify but I think it's going to be drastic. It would be a shame if, in a few months, I lose half my business."

Jason Kibble, manager of the Cherry Tree Pub for 11 months, said he fears a significant loss of trade and that he will have to cut staff hours.

He said: "We'd have to completely change things here because it will have a massive impact.

"There isn't any way to pull customers in if they can't get here.

"We are going to be quiet. There's no way we will be as busy as we are normally so hours will have to be cut because we have to make savings."

The bridge is the main route into Steventon for many people - businesses such as Munchies and The Cherry Tree will be hit by the closure

Mr Kibble said relying on villagers for 10 months means the pub would miss its targets set by owners Wadworth brewery.

Both firms said they rely on lunchtime trade from Milton Park and Harwell workers.

But worried businesses have the support of government body Historic England, which has said any justified plan to close the bridge must have "the minimum necessary amount of harm" to the area.

Historic England added: "We understand that retaining the bridge is possible while also keeping the Causeway crossing [to the west of the village] open. We are not yet convinced that retaining both the crossings and the bridge is out of the question."

> *Residents and businesses are not happy – it's going to impact our trade badly*
> *Hamid Ghaffari, owner of Munchies*

News Bites

Knives at school

KNIVES have been found at a school in Didcot.

Police were called to Manor County Junior School in Lydalls Close after reports that two knives had been found at the school.

A police spokesperson said: "We are working with the school to establish why the knives were left at the school and who left the knives at the school. Since the knives were recovered, our schools' officer has visited the school to provide advice, support and information about the dangers of knives to pupils."

If you have any information on the incident, call 101.

Council vacancies

FIVE councillors have resigned from Didcot Town Council this month.

Anthony Nash, Johanna Nash, Margaret Davies, Margaret Turner and Michael Turner have all stepped down for 'personal reasons'.

The town council now has to fill the five vacancies in the All Saints, Northbourne (two), Orchard and Ladygrove wards.

If you are interested in becoming a councillor or would like to know more about the process call 01235 750030.

Join fun run

ENTRIES are invited for a fun run in Didcot on July 2. Didcot 5 is a five-mile race or there's a two-mile charity run. Go to www.didcotrunners.org.uk

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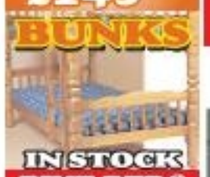
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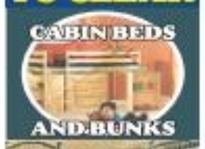
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Mum's 100km cycle ride to put brakes on cancer

A MUM is taking on a 100km cycle ride through the night to raise funds for a cancer charity in her daughter's name.

Four years ago, Penny Young's 26-year-old daughter Joanna was diagnosed with ovarian germ cell cancer.

Now after years of treatment, Joanna is improving and Penny is getting on her bike in the Women V Cancer Ride the Night challenge on Saturday from Windsor Racecourse into central London and finishing back at the racecourse.

Penny, a nurse, from Radley, said the family's life was turned upside down when her daughter was diagnosed in 2013.

She said: "Initially, doctors believed Joanna had a variety of common issues until she was given an ultrasound and they found what they thought was a large cyst on one of her ovaries.

"After major surgery the cyst was removed and she was diagnosed with ovarian germ cell cancer."

It was later found the cancer had spread to her para aorta lymph nodes.

Joanna was given strong chemotherapy which involved weekly hospital treatment.

Penny said: "Joanna was given a 10 per cent chance of survival and that completely threw us.

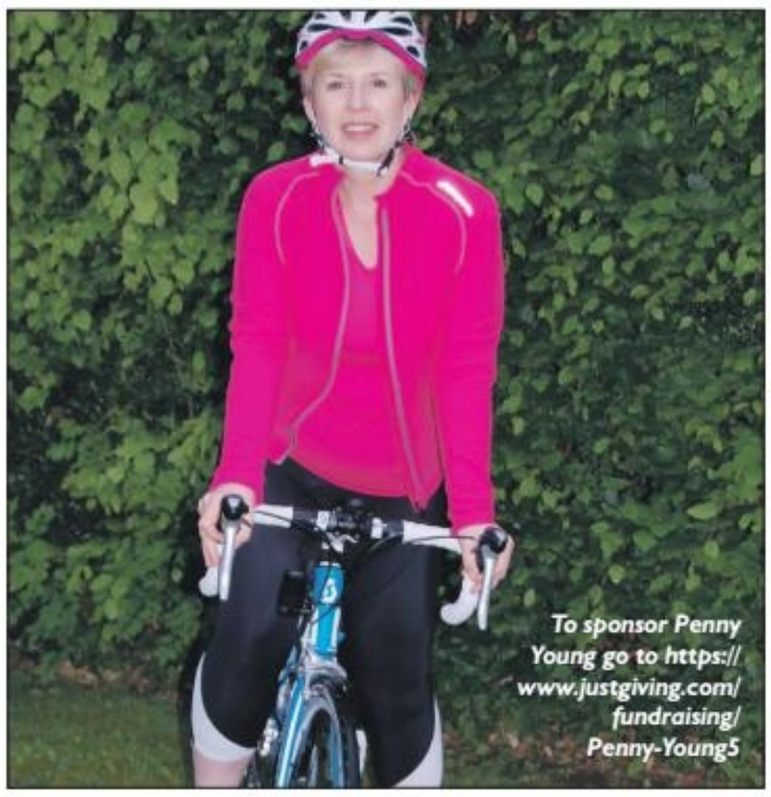
"Being a mother and knowing your daughter is going through that and that there's nothing you can do to help is devastating."

Further surgery, more high dose chemotherapy and two stem cell transplants followed.

Penny, 52, added: "Thankfully she has recovered from the operations and treatment well, she is being monitored very closely and has another MRI scan very soon. I am so proud of her for how well she has coped with this awful disease."

Joanna had wanted to tackle Women V Cancer Ride the Night this year, but her treatment meant she wasn't able to get fit enough in time.

Her proud mum said: "Joanna has had her stationary bike set up and been pedalling for the past few months, we both were going to do Ride the Night this weekend but she couldn't due to her recovery, so I'll be there on Saturday taking on the challenge. My friend and her daughter will be riding with me. I've done charity bike rides in the past and this is for such a good cause. Without the research I know Joanna wouldn't still be here so it's a brilliant way of doing everything we can to help beat this awful disease."



To sponsor Penny Young go to https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Penny-Young5

Ann Frampton, director of event organisers Action for Charity said: "Penny has her own links with cancer and has chosen to take part in this event because it will help to make a difference to so many people's lives."

More than 3,000 women are expected to take part in the sold-out event.

■ Entries for Ride the Night 2018 are now open, go to http://www.ridethenight.co.uk/ for more information.

More police in public places after attack in Manchester

THAMES Valley Police has put additional officers in crowded places to reassure residents after the Manchester bombing.

The force said yesterday it would have a "visible presence" in communities across its patch.

The heightened security measures come after Prime Minister Theresa May announced that the national threat level has increased from severe to critical.

In a statement, TVP said there is no intelligence to suggest a specific threat to the Thames Valley.

Police would not confirm the locations of where officers have been deployed, the number of armed and unarmed officers on duty or how long the extra security measures would be in place for.

But TVP did say officers would be focused on crowded places, including transport hubs and shopping centres.

The statement read: "Our priority is to protect the communities of the Thames Valley and visitors to our area.

"Overnight [May 23 to 24] we have put in place additional armed and unarmed officers at key locations.

"Do not be alarmed if you see more armed police officers both on foot and in vehicles.

"For operational reasons we are not confirming details of locations, tactics and numbers of police officers on duty to ensure the effectiveness of our deployments."

DCC John Campbell

Deputy Chief Constable John Campbell added: "I would like to reassure you that the move to critical is something that we prepare for.

"We will continually review our deployments and take all possible steps to keep people safe within Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire.

"At this time we need everyone to remain alert but not alarmed.

"Our officers and staff will continue to provide a visible presence in our communities and we have the specialist resources in place to respond in an emergency."

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Join medical trials and help improve the lives of others, urges widow

THE widow of a prostate cancer sufferer who was able to spend more 'quality time' with her husband thanks to a medical trial is urging the public to participate in clinical research.

Sue Duncombe, of Childrey, spoke at the International Clinical Trials day last Saturday.

Her husband Philip was placed on an NHS trial of prostate cancer drug Abiraterone in early 2009 after he was diagnosed with the cancer four years earlier, aged 52.

Philip was placed on the drug after undergoing surgery and chemotherapy, which had stopped working.

Within three weeks of starting the trial, he went from not being well enough to stay overnight with friends who lived nearby to researching flights for a trip to South Africa.

The couple, together for 15 years, were able to travel to South Africa and also visit Greece during 2009, before Philip died on Christmas Day that year, at 57.

In 2012 the drug was made available for use in the NHS.

Sue, 59, said: "I felt proud that Philip had contributed to this, giving more men and their families more quality time together.

"The opportunity to take part in a clinical study gave us hope at a time when we were at a low, as all licensed drugs to treat him had been exhausted. Philip's quality of life was poor and the end of his life seemed to be close.

Philip Duncombe, who took part in medical trials, pictured with his wife Sue

"The results both prolonged Philip's life and had a positive result on his quality of life. This had a positive impact not just on Philip, but on me and our family and friends."

Sue said: "Only if people participate in clinical studies can improvements in treatments be developed, which can then be available to a wide population. The bonus for the individual is that it may improve outcomes for them."

Prof Andrew Protheroe, associate professor of uro-oncology at Oxford's Churchill Hospital, said: "The benefit that Philip had with the trial he took part in was huge and I will always remember the dramatic improvement he had when he first started on the study, enabling him to travel.

"Taking part in clinical trials is so important to improve the knowledge and treatments for patients with cancer.

"All of the treatments that we use today are here because of the patients that took part in clinical research."

Runners help raise funds for good causes

MORE than 500 runners of all ages took part in this year's Thames run.

The event, now in its 10th year, was started by new Mayor Mick Kidley on May 21.

Among the many who competed, runners from RAF Benson, currently stationed in Kabul, took part.

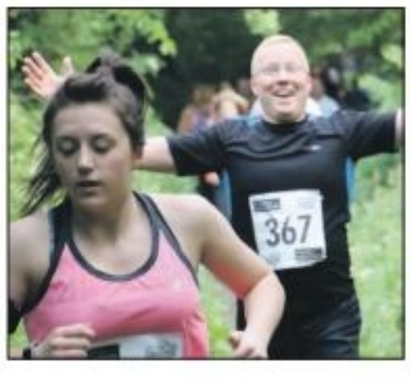
The 10k race was won by Paul Wileman, from the White Horse Harriers.

The first female in the 10k was Sian Loveless, from Didcot Runners.

Runners from the Wallingford Triathlon Club and from Run Wallingford also participated.

Profits raised will go to Style Acre and Crowmarsh Gifford School.

Runners completed 10k in this year's Thames run Pictures: Barry Cornelius



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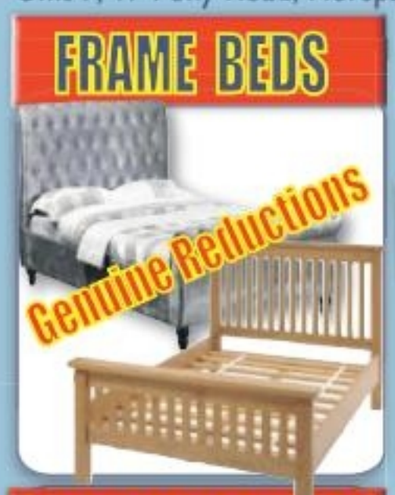

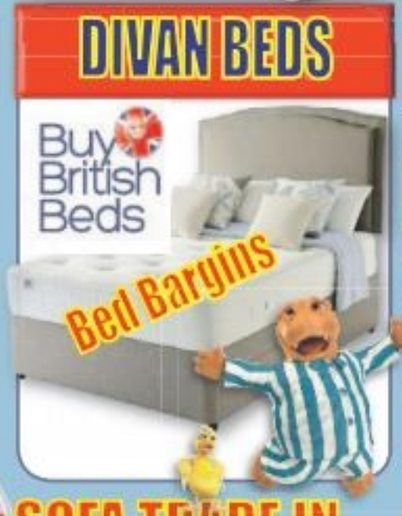

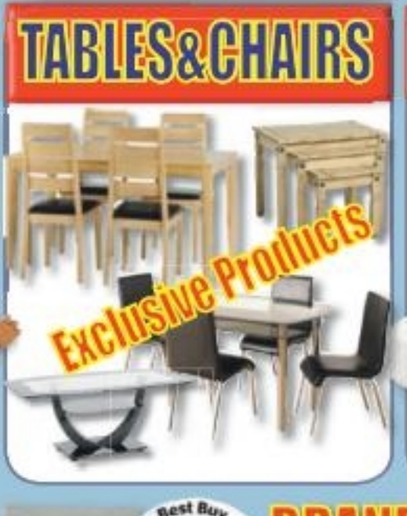

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Jobs bonanza after work to revamp RAF building

By George Welch

THOUSANDS of new jobs could be created as part of a multi-million pound initiative to refurbish former RAF buildings at Harwell Science and Innovation Campus.

The £7.4million programme is expected to attract new businesses and help expand organisations already on site.

The science campus, which was a Second World War RAF air base, currently provides around 5,000 jobs across more than 200 organisations.

One million sq ft of new buildings are planned over the next five years.

Santander Corporate & Commercial has supported the campus with funding options and now its £7.4million backing will refurbish the outdated RAF buildings.

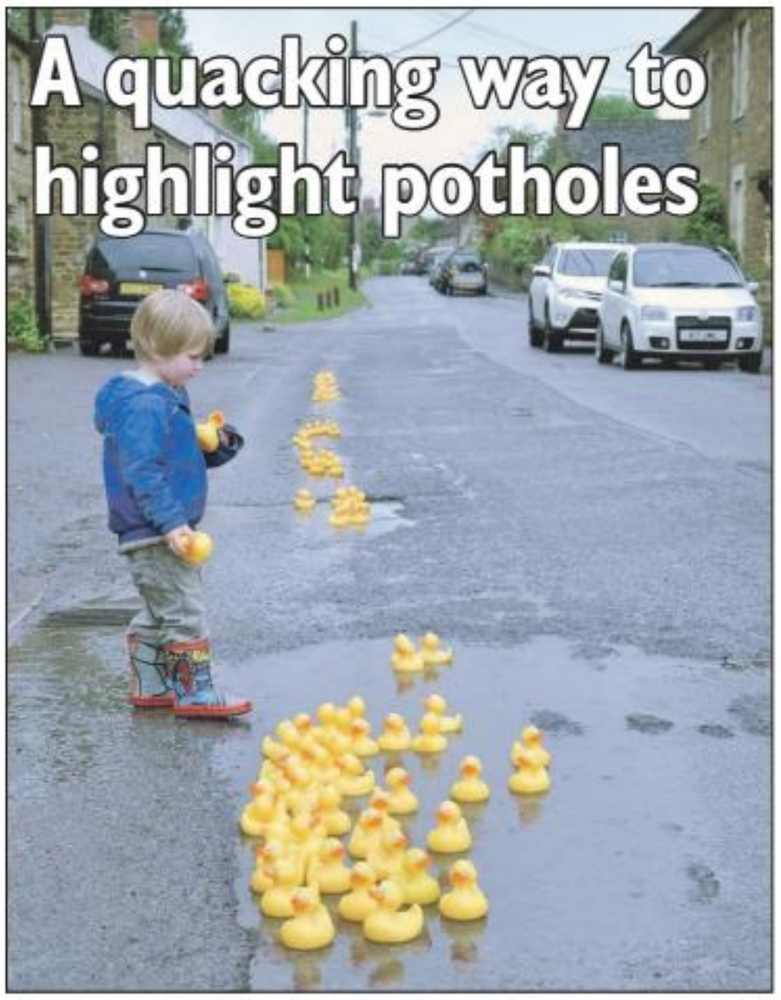
The government announced in February a £100million investment in the Rosalind Franklin Institute, an innovative centre to develop treatments and technologies to cure diseases, which will be based at Harwell.

William Cooper, partner in the joint venture at Harwell Campus, said: "Santander's continued support has resulted in a number of new facilities for our partner organisations and significant job creation.

"The latest round of funding will result in an attractive new HQ for us at the campus."

Lance Anelay, relationship director at Santander Corporate & Commercial, said: "Harwell is an innovative campus which is spearheading new scientific and technological developments to aid everything from space and satellites to disease prevention. We look forward to seeing the refurbished buildings when they are complete and hope to work with William and the team in the future."

A CGI image of the new buildings, looking down Fermi Avenue towards Diamond Light Source Picture: Harwell Campus



VILLAGE residents have decided to no longer be sitting ducks and take matters into their own hands.

Parish councillors and residents started a campaign last week to highlight the problem of potholes in Steeple Aston by placing rubber ducks along South Side.

Helen Wright, a Steeple Aston parish councillor, said residents have been sending in complaints about the potholes to Oxfordshire County Council for some time.

She added: "The council has been reporting the problem to OCC for months - if not years.

"So far three people have tripped and had nasty falls as a result of the potholes and some residents say their cars have been damaged by such a dreadful stretch of road.

"These ducks have been a bit of fun to try and highlight a serious issue."

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Former England star to kick off Oxford to Leiden bike ride

By George Welch

EX-ENGLAND international defender Martin Keown will launch the third consecutive Oxford to Leiden Bike Ride.

The city-born former centre back will complete the first stage of the three-day cycle as 26 other riders take on a gruelling 300 miles to the Dutch city.

Crews from McDonald's restaurants in Benson, Witney and Didcot will take part on June 3 to raise money for Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC), which provide free accommodation for families with children in hospital.

Volunteers from all three restaurants will be involved with fundraising throughout 2017 and collectively aim to raise £50,000. In the two previous years over £40,000 has been raised.

The route was chosen as Oxford is twinned with Leiden and both cities have Ronald McDonald Houses.

The ride starts from the Ronald McDonald House in Headington and finishes at the one in Leiden.

Martin Keown

Ismail Anilmis, who owns 10 McDonalds restaurants in four counties, including Oxfordshire, said: "It is so important to me to help raise money for Ronald McDonald House Charities and this year's bike ride looks set to raise more money than ever.

"I am so proud of the hard work my team has put in over the past three years.

"We've raised a huge amount of money for a brilliant cause and had a great time doing it."

Ismail Anilmis with his crew ready to set off on the ride

A spokesperson at RMHC added: "It is fundraising events such as these that do so much to keep the charity running and we really appreciate the ongoing support.

"We're really grateful for the support from Ismail and his colleagues and look forward to seeing what they come up with next."

The Lord Mayor of Oxford, Councillor Jean Fooks, will attend the launch.

To find out more about Ronald McDonald House Charities or how you can get involved, visit rmhc.org.uk.

To donate, visit justgiving.com/RMHX-BIKE.

Stab student 'may not be able to return'

AN OXFORD University student who stabbed her ex-boyfriend in the leg might not be allowed to return to her studies.

A university spokesman says a decision has yet to be made over the future of Christ Church college undergraduate Lavinia Woodward, 24.

She pleaded guilty to inflicting grievous bodily harm when she appeared at Oxford Crown Court.

Sentencing was deferred until September 25.

Judge Ian Pringle QC said she might avoid a severe sentence due to her "extraordinary" prospects.

The university spokesperson said: "A decision on continuing study will always take full account of the health, well-being and best interests of both the student and the wider student community. No final decision has been reached or guarantee made."

Judge Pringle said he believed the attack was "a complete one-off".

Ms Woodward punched her ex-boyfriend in the face, stabbed him with a bread knife, and threw a laptop, a glass and a jam jar at him, before stabbing herself.

The attack took place while she was under the influence of drink and drugs.

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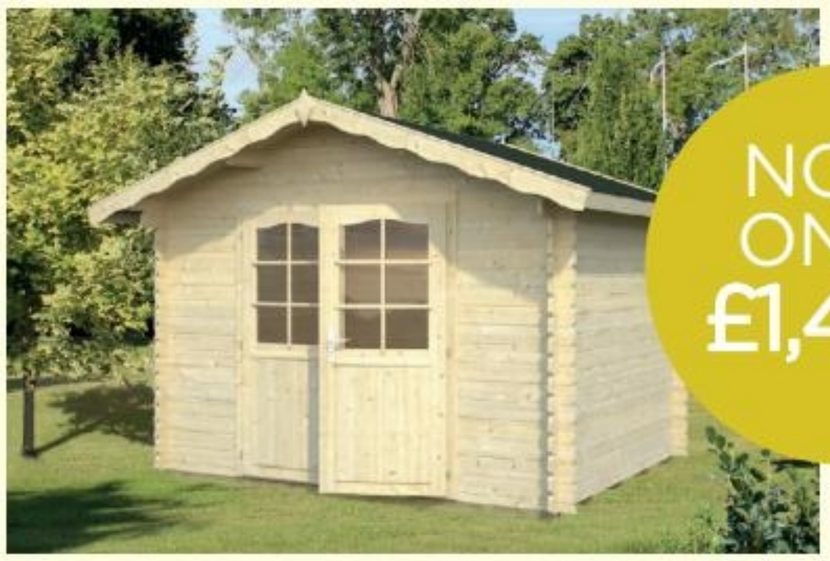

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Beth and Kyle

Selfless girlfriend wins once-in-a-lifetime trip

A STUDENT from Witney who pledged to treat her boyfriend to a surprise trip-of-a-lifetime if she won a £3,000 travel grant is about to see her dreams come true.

Beth Faulkner, the winner of this year's Gap 360 student award, impressed the judges for her "unselfish reasons for entering".

The 19-year-old plans on using the money to take boyfriend Kyle Harley on a world trip, after he had to cancel his travel plans last year due to a family illness.

Kyle, 20, did not know that the Bath University student had applied but said she was acting strangely.

He said: "I had no idea that she was going to surprise me with something like this. Beth is so amazing and I am incredibly lucky.

"I am so grateful for this chance to fulfil my dream of going to Australia after I had to cancel my plans last year."

Beth plans to travel to Africa to experience the culture and wildlife.

She is then planning on going to Australia.

She said: "I am so overwhelmed and feel very honoured.

"I saw the competition in January and thought it was a good distraction from revision. I instantly thought of my boyfriend Kyle.

"He missed out on travelling and when I saw that you could win this grant I didn't want to miss the opportunity.

"I honestly don't think there is anyone more deserving of the prize than him."

Bouncy football fun for new charity tournament

By George Welch

BOUNCE, roll and bash your way to victory all in the name of charity with a hilarious take on the beautiful game of football.

Didcot-based fundraising organisation Play2Give (P2G) – our charity of the year – will host its first ever bubble football tournament this summer in support of children and their families in hospital.

P2G is calling on 10 to 15 teams made up from local companies, groups and teams of friends to morph into giant zorb inflated balls on Sunday, August 27, to help support poorly kids.

Money raised from the big match will go to Oxford Children's Hospital, one of P2G's main benefactors.

Andy Baker, who set up P2G in 2007, said: "We want to celebrate our 10th anniversary in style.

"There's no better way than with a community focused event to bring everyone together and support the most poorly children in need at our local children's hospital, which will help to fund new parent accommodation, play areas and medical equipment.

A bubble football tournament is being planned for August to raise money for Play2Give

"We would love to raise £10k throughout 2017 and this is a brand new event in P2G's calendar.

"We hope the local community will come together, bring their families along and enjoy what will be a fantastic day of fun for all."

The feel-good day, to be hosted at Boundary Park on Great Western Park in Didcot, will kick off at midday and is planned to run through until 6pm.

Extra entertainment will include, among other things, bouncy castles, face painting, soccer darts, a wine bar, tug of war contest and a hog roast.

Teams can now enter for the competition and can do so until August 11.

Entries cost £105 per team – that's £15 per person to take part.

For more information on the fun day and how to get involved in the bubble football, email Andy at play2give@hotmail.com, or go to play2give.org.uk.

P2G has raised £4,200 so far this year, more than at this point in any other year, and is on course to achieve its 10th anniversary £10,000 target.

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Fundraising opticians focusing on dementia

STAFF at a Didcot opticians at the Broadway dressed in bright colours and held a book sale to raise money for Dementia Awareness week.

The event at Scrivens Opticians & Hearing Care on Monday last week, raised funds in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. The society is now inviting local people to get involved by sending in their photos, to be featured in a charity calendar.

Scrivens sales advisor Jade Buck said: "It's a cause we care about because dementia affects the lives of so many people in our community."

The company has chosen the Alzheimer's Society as its charity because of recent findings that suggest there is a link between uncorrected hearing loss and dementia, including Alzheimer's.

Pictured right, Scrivens employees, from left, Nicola Devlin, Sam Hayward and Jade Buck

Concern over traffic impact if new McDonald's gets nod

A BID by fast food chain McDonald's to open a restaurant in Bicester has been met with opposition.

The franchise wants to build a two-storey drive-through outlet on 548sqm of land near the Tesco petrol station in Lakeview Drive. McDonald's says the development would create 70 full and part-time jobs.

The application has met with a mixed reaction – people posting on social media welcomed the move.

But traffic campaigner Sallie Wright has opposed it over concerns about the impact of traffic.

In a letter to Cherwell District Council she said: "I strongly object to building a McDonald's restaurant in this area as it is over-development between Bicester Village and Bicester Avenue.

"This whole area is already supporting expansion of Bicester Village, soon to be built Bicester Business Park and – on the other side of the A41 – Travelodge, Brewers Faye and the shops at Kingsmere.

"Have the planners thought about the extra traffic this will attract? The traffic is already a problem in this area and once this restaurant is built it will increase substantially.

"This restaurant should be housed within Bicester town centre."

Tesco opened at Lakeview Drive last year after relocating from its site in Pingle Drive, enabling Bicester Village to expand into its old site.

As part of the multi-million pound deal cash has been used to improve the road network in the area.

Tesco's move was also expected to kick-start development of the business park, which has planning approval.

In documents submitted with the planning application, McDonald's says the restaurant will "in no way prejudice" the delivery of the remaining 45,000sqm of employment development at Bicester Business Park.

No date has been set for the McDonald's planning decision.

News Bites

Fly-tip pair fined

OXON: Two people caught on camera dumping waste in a business's skip have been fined.

Mark Butler and Lauren Tighe, both of Headington, admitted fly-tipping when they appeared at Oxford Magistrates' Court on May 16.

The pair dumped two bags of waste and litter at Kidlington Industrial Estate.

Each was fined £230, ordered to pay £100 in compensation, £249.05 in fees, and a £30 victim surcharge.

Plots to offer

BANBURY: Allotments are available in Sinclair Avenue.

Town councillor Colin Clarke said: "Not only do plot holders eat fresh self-grown produce – they also get calorie-burning exercise in the fresh air. It's a win-win situation."

An allotment costs £13 per half plot per year.

Roof raising

WALLINGFORD: People are being urged to help raise cash to pay for essential roof repairs at the Corn Exchange.

A fundraising riverside garden party from 3.30pm on June 17 will include live music as well as a chance to see one-act comedy Sixty Love.

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Search and rescue group get £20,000 grant for van

By George Welch

OxSAR chairman Jonathan Stevenson-Paul with SSEN customer relationship manager Lucy Anderson

A GROUP of volunteers who search for missing people in Oxfordshire have received a 'generous' donation towards a new incident control vehicle.

The county's lowland search and rescue team OxSAR was given £20,000 by an energy firm for a new Ford Transit vehicle to help organise rescue missions.

The vehicle, funded by a Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) grant, will be used as a centre of operations.

The group's current vehicle, a 2006 Vauxhall Movano, has become too costly to run.

The Ford Transit will have to be custom fitted with all the necessary equipment and branded before it can be used.

When fully fitted the van will have the necessary equipment for specialised searches such as rescue in river or floodwaters.

It has increased space for medical and rescue equipment and two workstations for a search manager and an operations manager, allowing both members of the team to work independently but share information.

OxSAR chairman Jonathan Stevenson-Paul said: "We are delighted with the generous grant from SSEN that allowed us to purchase this new, state-of-the-art van.

"This will allow us to be more efficient and improve the workflow within the team, saving more lives.

"It will further support the work and dedication of our outstanding volunteers."

The OxSAR team, which can mobilise its volunteers within an hour, is called into action by police when a person goes missing in Oxfordshire.

SSEN customer relationship manager Lucy Anderson said it was "great to see" the energy firm's donation "bring so much benefit to the local community".

For more information on OxSAR and to donate, visit oxsar.org.uk.

Work resumes on clearing away power station debris

The aftermath of the boiler house collapse in February 2016

WORK to finish clearing the wreckage from the collapsed Didcot Power Station has resumed.

Workers from contractor Brown and Mason started clearing the site last week.

RWE Npower, which owns the site, said no date has been set for completion.

Work clearing the debris has resumed 15 months after four men were killed when the boiler house came down on February 23 last year.

Ken Cresswell, 57, John Shaw, 61, Michael Collings, 53, and Christopher Huxtable, 34, were employed by previous contractors Coleman and Company, which ended its contract in September.

Brown and Mason worked on site during the recovery operation last year.

Rubble from part of the building brought down in a controlled explosion in July last year remains.

The cause of the collapse is the subject of an ongoing joint police and Health and Safety Executive investigation.

It took more than six months for three of the men's bodies to be recovered from the site.

The three cooling towers and a chimney that also need to be demolished are part of a separate contract and demolition isn't planned for those until summer 2018.

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From left, Blue Cross supervisor Laura Crofts, her daughter Isla and supporters Rosalind Jeffries and Hannah Jeffries

A whisker short of claiming cat record

By George Welch

MORE than 200 animal lovers failed to break the world record for the largest gathering of people dressed as cats – but they still raised an impressive £2,000 to care for sick pets.

A total of 219 people turned up head to toe in ears, tails and whiskers to support the record bid at the headquarters of Burford-based animal charity Blue Cross.

The effort at the charity's headquarters in Shilton Road on Sunday last week wasn't enough to set a new Guinness World Record but the fundraising efforts did help the pet charity raise vital funds to look after sick, injured and homeless animals.

Community fundraising officer Tina Burdett said: "Although we didn't break a world record, we were delighted that so many people made the effort to dress up and travel to the centre to support our record attempt.

"We want to thank everyone for their support and for taking part and helping us to raise such a fantastic amount.

"The money will help Blue Cross continue its work looking after the sick, injured and homeless pets at our rehoming centres and hospitals across the country."

The record attempt took place during a family fun day event at the centre, which included stalls, a fun fair, live music and games.

However, the official record was broken in Malaysia earlier this month when 440 people dressed as felines in Kuching.

Blue Cross trusts officer Amy Lloyd dresses up with husband Mark and son Charlie

Money raised from events like the world record go towards helping all animals in Blue Cross care, including their Burford Babies, which hopes to raise £15,000 to pay off costs following an influx of newborn kittens, foals and rabbits at the site.

Jenna Martyn, Blue Cross Burford centre manager, said: "It's great that so many people have already donated to the Burford Babies appeal, which helps us care for cats like Suzie and her litter of six kittens born on site last week after she was abandoned when her owner moved house."

The Blue Cross charity has 11 centres across the country that care for homeless animals.

For more information on how to donate, visit bluecross.org.uk

To donate towards the Burford Babies appeal, which has raised more than £2,500 so far, visit tinyurl.com/kf983tb.

BBC boffin's celebration of machines

A CLASSIC Festival of Speed show will make its debut on the banks of the Thames next month to celebrate all things mechanical.

The Ye Olde Swan Inn at Radcot will be hosting the event on June 10 with the BBC's Dr Mike Leahy, an ex-Oxford University virologist who is a confirmed 'petrol head' with a passion for classic motor vehicles.

Together with the Royal British Legion Riders Branch and the landlord of the inn, Mike and a small team of enthusiasts are holding the event just over the bridge from the historic pub.

Mike, known for programmes such as the BBC's Rough Science, Bodysnatchers and Lab Rats, said it would feature all motor vehicles and mechanical implements, whether worth a tenner or a million pounds.

In the afternoon there will be an exhibition of classic bikes, cars, trucks, military vehicles, boats and even lawn mowers from 2pm to 4pm, and music and bands from 6pm until 10pm.

Entry is free, and any money raised during the event will go to the Royal British Legion Poppy appeal.

To find out more, check out 'Radcot Classic Festival of Speed' on Facebook.

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Chris Heath with some of the people involved at the charity, which recycles unwanted furniture

Boost for furniture recycling team

A BANBURY charity that helps adults with physical and learning difficulties to gain hands-on skills and improve their confidence has been given a £2,600 boost.

Cherwell District Council's outgoing chairman Cllr Chris Heath presented Second Time Around with the cash, which was raised during her year in the role.

Based in Beaumont Industrial estate, the charity trains people with learning difficulties how to restore and recycle furniture, which is then sold.

Some of the cash came from the chairman's dinner last month at Cherwell Edge Golf, which included a raffle and auction.

Cllr Heath said: "Second Time Around is a cause close to my heart. I first came across the organisation on Facebook and after learning its ethos was built around recycling old furniture and building community inclusion I was instantly hooked as they're topics I am passionate about.

"The staff and volunteers are lovely down there. They all know me and have since asked if I would like to become a trustee! They work with a number of people and offer alternative opportunities to the more traditional day centres."

David Hederly, treasurer for the organisation, said: "Second Time Around has steadily gone from strength to strength over the course of seven years – from a tiny industrial unit to a large scale workshop and retail warehouse with cafe. We hope to use the donation to increase our visibility within the local area."

Celebrity chefs line up for food festival

By Samantha McGregor

A STRING of talented chefs have signed up for this year's Thame Food Festival.

They include Jane Beedle, a finalist in the 2016 Great British Bake-Off, Shelina Permaloo, the Master Chef champion of 2012, Benoit Blin, the head pastry chef at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons for more than 20 years, and Raymond Blanc.

This year's festival will also see some major changes.

It moves from the town centre to Thame showground, will take place over two days instead of just one and has secured a major manufacturer as sponsor.

It takes place on Saturday, September 30 and Sunday, October 1. The first day will be dedicated to chefs and the second to bakers.

Alongside cooking demonstrations there will be a pop up 'Milk Shed' restaurant, the Chef's Banquet on Saturday night, a pop up pub, a gin emporium, Hearing Dog's Fun Dog Show, wine workshops and The Big Thame Bake.

There will also be all manner of hot street food and products from artisan food producers.

Festival patron and organiser Lotte Duncan said: "This year we are aiming to have about 250 artisan producers alongside demonstrations from many leading chefs and bakers.

"Never did I envisage 10 years ago that the event would become what it is!

"Here we are at a new path in our journey, as the event moves to Thame Showground and expands over two days.

"The opportunities this gives us are immense, including securing a three-year sponsorship with Magimix, which means we can continue to deliver an amazing family foodie event to a town we love."

News Bites

Support for split

N OXON: Results from the first round of consultation over plans to split Upper Heyford into two separate parishes show a "clear majority" supporting it.

Cherwell District Council said 78 per cent of respondents to the community governance review agreed with the proposal.

Most residents favoured using the name Upper Heyford for the village area and Heyford Park for the airbase area.

But the majority of residents in Somerton and Ardley rejected proposals to be included in the new Upper Heyford village parish.

A second consultation will run from July 31 to September 8.

Carnival quiz

THAME: The team behind Thame Carnival has organised a quiz night at Racquets Fitness Centre on June 9.

Taking place on the eve of the town carnival, it will be hosted by quizmaster Sue Boyle.

Tickets cost £5 per person and are available from Racquets on 01844 261754.

Firm on the move

BICESTER: Company EP Barrus has confirmed it will move to Graven Hill in 2019 making it the lead commercial occupier.

Graven Hill is surplus MOD land now owned by Cherwell District Council.

Over the coming years it is set to be developed into the UK's largest self-build housing development and a commercial business park.

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BAT OUT OF HELL is the breathtaking new musical that tears through Jim Steinman and Meat Loaf's greatest hits including I'd Do Anything for Love, Paradise by the Dashboard Light, Dead Ringer For Love, Two Out of Three Ain't Bad and Bat Out of Hell.

The musical critics are calling **'THE SHOW TO SEE IN 2017'** (Daily Telegraph, Mail on Sunday, Manchester Evening News) plays the London Coliseum for a strictly limited season from 5 June.

Q. Bat Out of Hell contains songs written by Jim Steinman and performed by which famous singer?

A. Freddie Mercury B. Ozzy Osbourne C. Meat Loaf

To enter this competition and more like it, go online to
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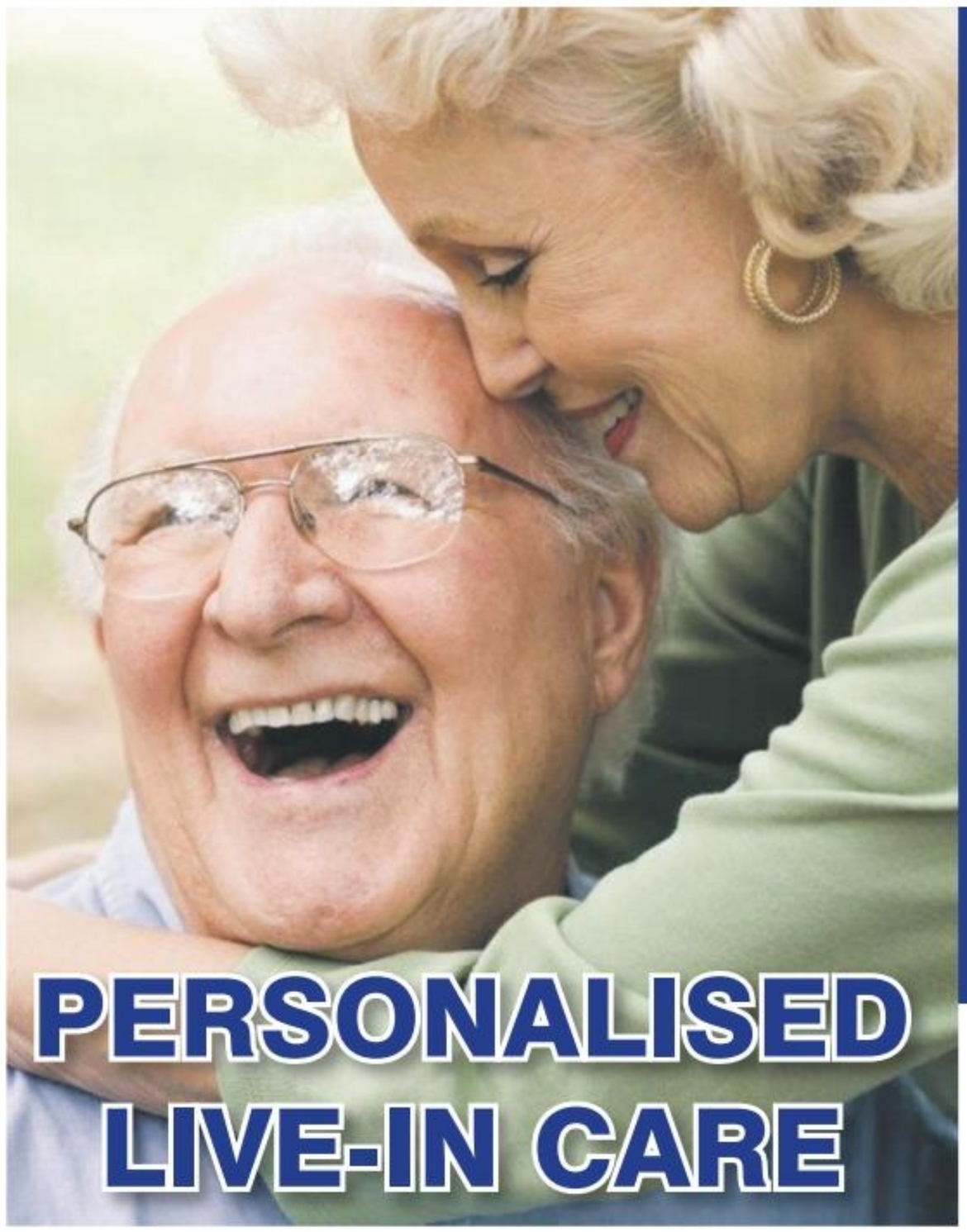
Four prizes available consisting of one pair of tickets to Bat out of Hell The Musical at the London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4ES. Tickets are valid for Monday - Thursday evening performances only, from Tuesday 6 June – Monday 19 June 2017, Thursday matinee is included. Tickets are strictly subject to availability and non-transferable. No cash alternative is available. Any additional expenses incurred over and above the prize element must be covered by the winner. The cost of travel is not included in the prize.



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Competition

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STUNNINGLY brought to life in a spectacular new musical by Oscar-winning screenwriter and creator of Downton Abbey Julian Fellowes and Olivier-Award winning composer and lyricist George Stiles and Anthony Drewe, THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS is the perfect summer treat for families!

Actor, comedian and presenter Rufus Hound will play the amazing Mr Toad, joined by West End stars Simon Lipkin as Rat and Craig Mather as Mole, EastEnders actor Neil McDermott as Chief Weasel, with Coronation Street and Boy Meets Girl star Denise Welch as Mrs Otter and West End legend Gary Wilmot as Badger.

Featuring eye-poppingly beautiful design, exuberant choreography and a gloriously British score, The Wind In The Willows brings comedy, heart and thrills to the world-famous London Palladium from June.

London Palladium, Argyll Street, London, W1F 7TF - 16 June - 9 Sept 2017
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Win tickets!

We are giving Observer readers the chance to win one of 2 family tickets to see The Wind In The Willows.

To enter, please answer the following simple question:

Q: What is the name of the author who wrote the novel The Wind In The Willows? Lewis Carroll, Kenneth Grahame or Beatrix Potter?

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TERMS & CONDITIONS
There are 2x family tickets to be won. Each family ticket consists of 4x tickets for two adults and two children to see The Wind In The Willows and is valid for Monday to Friday performances until 31st July 2017. Tickets are strictly subject to availability. Tickets are non-transferable. No cash alternative is available. Travel is not included.

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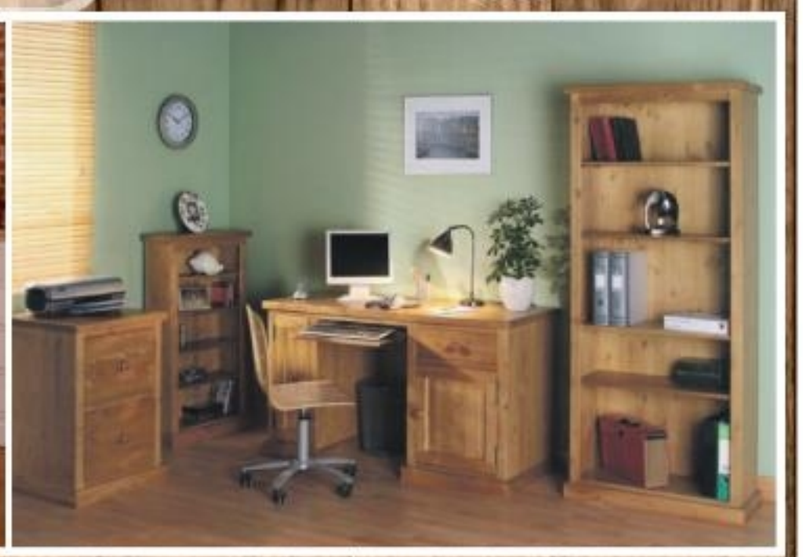

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Quick Clues Across

1 Steps (6)
7 Quiver (7)
8 Accept (7)
9 Attain (5)
10 Gave (9)
12 Managed (3)
13 Jewels (4)
15 Falter in speaking (7)
17 Hurry (4)
19 Untruth (3)
21 Agreed (9)
22 Soil (5)
23 Confounded (7)
24 Optimistic (7)
25 One of the Channel Islands (6)

Quick Clues Down

1 Peeled (8)
2 Bowman (6)
3 Clothing (7)
4 Defy (5)
5 In flames (6)
6 Network (4)
7 Reference (11)
11 Belt (4)
13 Smile (4)
14 In a squalid manner (8)
16 Raise (7)
18 Lash (6)
20 Engraves (6)
21 Rub (5)
22 Resound (4)

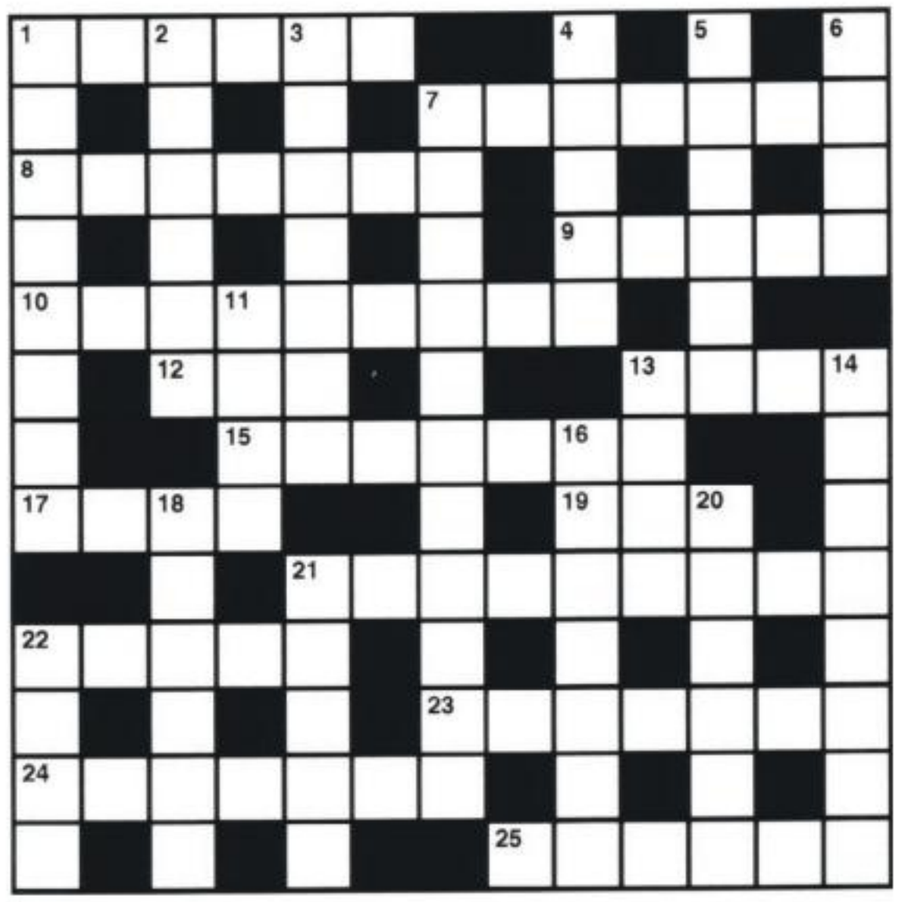
Scribble space

Cryptic Clues Across

1 Avoid the leakage (6)
7 The suitability of a good physical condition (7)
8 Piece of land or the machine to use on it (7)
9 A girl to go astray (5)
10 The Spanish have a tale men put about as basic (9)
12 Either way she's in seclusion (3)
13 The waters of the mysterious East (4)
15 Sound pleased it's back as a foothold (7)
17 Join up the top of the dress (4)
19 Not a gross trap (3)
21 It's an idea that could hit the signal on the head (9)
22 Send a message that one road needs replanning (5)
23 Does she lure men to death through her knowledge or her welcoming garland? (7)
24 Gyrated and came to grief (7)
25 Some of mine are reported to be closer (6)

Cryptic Clues Down

1 Aren't yet turning to prayer (8)
2 Cowardly number to crow after (6)
3 Forbearing to breathe hard around the bond (7)
4 Take an illicit amount of metal, it's said (5)
5 Give a description of the French penalty (6)
6 Enquires whether the fool has taken the last of the drink (4)
7 But is it in a brotherly tradition to really rant about after the head of the family? (11)
11 Think about Australian birds (4)
13 Throw out what we, as an afterthought, put up? (4)
14 See with pride how it gets faster (8)
16 Take away the confidence of 12 across, ever upset (7)
18 Abduct the youngster with a pile (6)
20 A real lieutenant could get higher (6)
21 Drilled without enthusiasm (5)
22 The procedure was said to be correct (4)



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EASY/MEDIUM/HARD

5		3	7				9	
	6				8	2	1	
7			2	4		6		
4	9	6	1	7				
		8				5		
1	6	4	3	9				
8		5		3	2			8
	2				5	9	4	
3		9	1				7	

	6						4	
	2		1		9			
4		3		7			2	
	7	9	8		2	3	1	
			6		9			
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This week's solutions

5	2	3	7	1	6	8	9	4
9	6	4	3	5	8	2	1	7
7	8	1	2	4	9	6	3	5
4	9	6	1	7	5	3	8	2
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2	5	7	8	9	3	4	6	1
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7	2	3	9	6	4	5	8	1
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8	7	2	9	1	4	6	5	3
9	3	5	7	6	2	4	8	1
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5	8	3	4	9	7	1	2	6
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2	9	7	1	5	6	3	4	8
7	5	9	6	4	3	8	1	2
3	2	8	5	7	1	9	6	4
6	1	4	8	2	9	7	3	5

Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Stairs 7 Tremble 8 Receive 9 Reach 10 Presented 12 Ran 13 Gems 15 Stammer 17 Dash 19 Lie 21 Consented 22 Earth 23 Abashed 24 Hopeful 25 Jersey

Down: 1 Stripped 2 Archer 3 Raiment 4 Beard 5 Ablaze 6 Mesh 7 Testimonial 11 Sash 13 Grin 14 Sordidly 16 Elevate 18 Stripe 20 Etches 21 Chafe 22 Echo

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Escape 7 Fitness 8 Tractor 9 Amiss 10 Elemental 12 Nun 13 Seas 15 Stirrup 17 Yoke 19 Net 21 Brainwave 22 Radio 23 Lorelei 24 Tragedy 25 Nearer

Down: 1 Entreaty 2 Craven 3 Patient 4 Steal 5 Define 6 Asks 7 Fraternally 11 Muse 13 Spew 14 Speedier 16 Unnerve 18 Kidnap 20 Taller 21 Bored 22 Rite

ADVERTORIAL

Simple steps homeowners can take now to protect their assets.

Head of April King Legal Paul King explains why some homeowners are doing **too little, too late** to protect their hard-earned assets.

Paul King, Head of April King Legal

Care Cost Fees

"A lot of people are still unaware that if they need care in later life, their assets will be means-tested by the Local Authority to help pay for these services."

"The Local Authority will look to use the assets of a person until they get down to a lower limit of £14,250, when the Local Authority will take over the fees."

"For instance, my own grandmother sadly passed away recently at the age of 92. My grandfather had died many years earlier and left everything to her."

"When she needed care in the last six years of her life, because my grandfather had left everything to her, the house and all the estate was counted in the Local Authority's means test."

"Our clients tell us, 'We've worked hard all our lives, why should the Local Authority get it all?'"

"Just as she died, she had gone down to that lower limit of £14,250 and that's all her children inherited."

"There are many myths about the steps people can take to protect their assets from being used like this."

"The main one is that a parent should simply sign their house over to the children now, so it won't be taken into consideration for means testing. That's just not true."

"Local Authorities will actually look to see if you've 'deliberately deprived' yourself of an asset by giving property away, going back over any period in time."

"Sometimes people think that if the gift is made seven years prior then the house is safe. This is not so as the seven-year rule only applies to Inheritance Tax and not Local Authority care."

"The solution is for couples to simply not leave everything to each other in the first place."

"What my grandfather could have done is leave his half of the house in trust to his children, stating that they couldn't have it while his wife, my grandmother, was still alive. We call these Property Trust Wills."

"If my grandfather had left his half of the house in trust to the children then when my grandmother subsequently received care in her later life she would only have been means tested on her own half of the house, but my grandfather's half would have been safe."

"Why should he have to contribute his half when he didn't receive any care?"

"The important factor is that couples need to act in advance. Once one party dies or loses mental capacity, through a stroke for example, then they are no longer in a position to do this legitimate and straightforward type of planning."

"It is therefore important for couples to act now even if they may not foresee care fees being an issue."

Paul goes on to explain that most clients he sees are surprised to learn remarriage usually cancels a Will and makes the spouse next in line to inherit, ahead of their own children! Protecting your half of the house in this way, he suggests, ensures that your children ultimately inherit when the survivor dies.

"Had my grandmother remarried after the death of my grandfather the whole estate could have passed sideways out of the family," says Paul.

Lasting Power of Attorney

Paul explains how people often get confused thinking that, because they have made a Will, their executors can also deal with assets if there is illness, stroke or some other form of incapacity while they are still alive.

"Everyone should actually have two documents – a Will that deals with their estate on death, and a Lasting Power of Attorney that deals with their estate during their lifetime," he says.

"There are two types of Lasting Power of Attorney – one deals with finance, the other deals with health and welfare."

"In many ways it's similar to a passport; a document that's registered now and one which can be physically handed to the attorneys should the need arise."

"It allows the attorneys, perhaps the children, to deal with the banks and pension companies etc should their parent become incapacitated, but also to deal with matters such as where the parent should be living and how they should receive care."

"Your attorneys, again perhaps your children, must legally act in your best interests at all times."

"You can choose a number of attorneys to act, either jointly or independently, and April King advises on the various options available."

"Couples are often surprised to discover that even joint bank accounts can be frozen until the bank sees sight of a Lasting Power of Attorney document."

"Having a Lasting Power of Attorney removes the burden on children should ill health happen further down the line."

"It helps a family deal with bank accounts and so on during a parent's lifetime and ceases on death."

"Crucially, you have to complete a Lasting Power of Attorney while you are still in good mental health."

"If someone becomes ill through say, a stroke or dementia, this option is lost and the family would have to apply for a Deputyship Order from the Court of Protection – a drawn out and expensive process."

"It is therefore a good idea for clients to plan ahead and remove any future burden from the family."

"Once again, all adults should be thinking of this, particularly when there are children or a business involved."

"It's not just something to think about when you get older, that's the challenge for us."

"People think, 'I'm not ill, why do I need to make a Power of Attorney?' But they're missing the point. This is a document that has to be done in advance."

"The Lasting Power of Attorney remains in place until you die unless you want to cancel it."

"Once it's registered, you don't have to worry if you then develop some debilitating illness. A burden has been removed from the family at an already difficult time."

Bloodline Trust Wills

The majority of April King's clients have already made standard 'Mirror Wills' with other firms before approaching the Firm. A Mirror Will is when a couple leave everything to each other on the first death, then to the children when the second partner dies. But modern family life means these type of Wills leave a lot to chance.

Explains Paul: "If I have a Mirror Will leaving everything to my wife and she remarries or goes into care after my death then either the new husband or the Local Authority are likely to inherit most, if not all, of my estate ahead of my children."

"Even if my children are named in my Mirror Will, it is by no means certain that they will inherit anything."

"Once again, this is because a remarriage would cancel the Will my wife had previously made with me and make the new husband next-of-kin."

"This often comes as a big shock to my clients who had perhaps thought that all was in order and that the family bloodline would one day inherit."

"The same is true for thinking that their children and/or grandchildren will one day benefit under a Mirror Will."

"If any of your children should die leaving everything to their husband or wife and that son-in-law or daughter-in-law should then remarry, then your grandchildren would be the ones to lose out under the line of inheritance."

"Worse still, someone else's grandchildren would be in line to receive the benefit of all your years of hard work."

"I've experienced this in my own family and I'm sure most people have had similar experiences or heard of someone who has."

"Bloodline Trust Wills give greater protection to your children."

"These type of Wills not only give your children complete control and access to the inheritance they receive from you, they also grant added protection from the twists and turns of modern family life."

"The wording in these Wills states that any money left over on their demise must pass to any children born of them – your grandchildren."

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April King has prepared a free information pack for readers of the Oxfordshire Guardian which is available by calling

01865 593081

Lines open Mon-Fri 8am-7pm,
Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 10am-2pm

You can also email **info@aprilking.co.uk** or visit www.aprilking.co.uk/infopack

April King Legal

April King has 20 offices across the Midlands.
Your local office is: Prama House, 267 Banbury Road, Summertown, Oxford, OX2 7HT

Spring into Action

Now's the perfect time to replace your garden fence once and for all. Anna Ryder Richardson - Designer and Television Presenter - takes a closer look at Colourfence, the revolutionary low-maintenance system.

It's been ten years since I regularly graced TV screens helping transform people's living spaces with MDF and stripped floorboards. Recently it's been more "celebrity muck out" than "celebrity make-over" as I took up the challenge of owning my own Wildlife Zoo in Tenby. In this time I've learnt quiet a lot about fences and having researched the various options for my own benefit I thought I would share my knowledge with a wider audience.

The latest design processes mean there is now a tremendous array of fencing products for you to choose from, constructed from a variety of materials. Each has its own attributes, and ultimately it can often come down to a matter of personal preference. For me, there was one unique system that stood out as providing the best balance between price and functionality which eradicates fencing problems for good. Or for at least 25 years. Colourfence. For quality, value, longevity, aesthetic design, this fencing system ticks all the boxes. Fencing made for the 21st century that will transform the look of your garden which is supplied and fitted by a company whose customer service is as good as the product.

In my view, Colourfence is the 'Rolls Royce' of fencing – just without the exclusive price tag. What's more, it's guaranteed to stay in place in up to 130mph winds and is virtually maintenance free.

To find out how the experts from Colourfence might help you, I suggest you call **01865 582 171** and speak to their team.

"I honestly believe that Colourfence is the best general purpose fencing product on the market today!"

Colourfence: The ultimate garden fence?

For many Colourfence is perhaps the ultimate choice. For the last 15 years it's been widely used across the UK and has steadily gained a reputation for its quality. By using the highest specification Colorbond steel in the fence structure itself, complemented by the highest level of customer service from accredited Franchisees, Colourfence is now regarded by many as the premier fencing solution in the market. Immune to the rot and resistant to the weather that so quickly effects wooden fences, Colourfence has none of the drawbacks of wood - plenty of additional benefits and what's more it's better value!

Call **01865 582 171** for more information

Gardeners' Questions

Q Wooden fence panels just don't seem to last - is there a storm resistant alternative?

A The Colourfence system has been tested under cyclonic conditions to withstand storms with wind gusts up to 130mph. Unlike your wooden fence - once professionally installed - Colourfence really will stay up!

Q No matter what I treat my wooden fence with - nothing seems to prevent it rotting or looking shabby for very long.

A Treating your fence is a thankless and expensive task. It's also a losing battle. Wood simply want's to rot. Colourfence offers a low-maintenance alternative where by an occasional wash down will keep it looking great for up to 25 years! GUARANTEED!†

THIS WEEK'S JOB

†Terms and conditions apply - full details available on request

Step into Spring – with COLOURFENCE

The only garden fence you will ever need!

Every gardener knows that it pays to plan ahead. If you are one of the thousands of people who watched helpless, as winter winds battered their garden, it will not be a surprise that garden fences are almost always the first casualty. Whether you have previously patched, painted or simply prayed to keep your fence going, there's no escaping the fact that timber fences will always fall victim to the weather. With Colourfence you can put your garden straight once and for all. Colourfence is scientfically tested and cyclonically rated to ensure when professionally installed, it can withstand wind gusts of up to 130mph. Once it's up – it stays up and is guaranteed to look good year after year. Safe, extra secure and hassle free – you will NEVER need to paint it, treat it or patch it. An occasional hose down will be all you need do to keep it in top condition for years to come. In fact the system is so durable that Colourfence will guarantee† their fencing to last at least 25 years. Available in a range of colours to suit any garden, with or without decorative trellis, the highly skilled installation team make short work of their dramatic transformations. Your sad old fence will be e_ ciently cleared and replaced, leaving you to get back to enjoying your rejuvenated garden. Pricing is just as straightforward and equally attractive. Starting costs are in line with inferior timber systems but with no annual treatments required, Colourfence saves you time and money each and every year. Their aim is your peace of mind. With a 25 year guarantee† Colourfence speaks for itself and promises a lifetime of hassle-free enjoyment.

For more information and to arrange a FREE no obligation site visit simply call one of their helpful team on 01865 582 171.

COLOURFENCE

the revolutionary low-maintenance system

01865 582 171

colourfence.co.uk

†Terms and conditions apply - full details available on request

In detail:

- Virtually Maintenance-free.
- Save time & money - no treating required.
- Guaranteed† not to rot, warp or peel for up to 25 years.
- Costs in line with far inferior timber systems
  Variety of colours and sizes available
- Professionally installed by accredited Franchisees

Colourfence is built to last!

NO PRESSURE PROMISE

To reassure customers that our free no obligation site survey and quotation is not a precursor to high pressure sales techniques, all Colourfence Franchisees have signed up to the Colourfence No Pressure Promise. Call or visit our website for details.

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Cha cha charming couple

Strictly Come Dancing favourites Kevin and Karen Clifton are about to step out on their first tour and you can join them – literally in some cases – at Oxford's New Theatre on June 20.
See inside for more

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DAYTIME

6.00 Breakfast (S) **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live** (S) **11.30 Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well** (S)(R) **12.00 Football Focus** (S) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **1.15 Pointless Celebrities** (S)(R) **2.00 The FA Cup Show** (S) **4.00 BBC News** (S) **4.10 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) **4.15 MOTD Live: FA Cup Final Build-Up** (S) **5.15 MOTD Live: FA Cup Final** Arsenal v Chelsea (kick-off 5.30pm). (S)

7

7.45 Doctor Who Earth faces ruin at the hands of three warring nations, until an alien race offers to intervene. (S)

8

8.30 Who Dares Wins Game show in which strangers pair up to win money. (S)

9

9.15 Mrs Brown's Boys Agnes looks after a robotic baby. (S)(R)
9.45 BBC News; Weather; (S) National Lottery Update (S)

10

10.05 Clique A climactic encounter during a night out tests friendships within the clique to breaking point. (S)
10.50 Clique (S)

11

11.35 MOTD: FA Cup Final Highlights Arsenal v Chelsea. (S)

AFTER 12

12.10 FILM Swingers (1996) (15) Comedy, starring Jon Favreau and Vince Vaughn. (S) **1.45** Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **1.50** BBC News (S)

BBC2

6.15 FILM City Beneath the Sea (1970) (U) (S) **7.45 Deborah Kerr: Talking Pictures** (S)(R) **8.20 FILM The Prisoner of Zenda (1952) (U)** (S) **10.00 Monty Halls' Great Hebridean Escape** (S)(R) **11.00 Homes Under the Hammer** (S)(R) **12.00 Great British Menu** (S)(R) **1.30 FILM Camelot (1967) (PG)** (S) **4.20 Flog It!** (S)(R) **5.00 Nature's Miniature Miracles: Natural World** (S)(R) **6.00 Golf: PGA Championship** (S)

7.00 Mexico: Earth's Festival of Life The deserts of Mexico's northern region, home to animals that have adapted to thrive in these arid conditions. (S)(R)

8.00 RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2017 Monty Don and Joe Swift revisit highlights from the BBC's week-long coverage of this year's Chelsea Flower Show. (S)

9.00 Jane Austen: Behind Closed Doors Lucy Worsley embarks on a road-trip across England to visit some of the many places that informed the central themes of Jane Austen's novels. (S)

10.00 FILM Quartet (2012) (12) Comedy drama, with Maggie Smith and Billy Connolly. (S)

11.30 Versailles William of Orange "tempts" the King to take the field against his Dutch army; (S)(R) Inside Versailles (S)(R)

12.30 FILM Easy Money (2010) (15) Crime thriller, starring Joel Kinnaman. **2.30** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

6.00 CITV 8.25 ITV News (S) **8.30 Weekend** (S) **9.25 The Home Game** (S)(R) **10.20 Judge Rinder** (S)(R) **11.15 Tipping Point** (S)(R) **12.20 ITV News;** Weather (S) **12.30 Bigheads** (S)(R) **1.30 The Chase** (S)(R) **2.30 FILM Mission: Impossible (1996) (PG)** (S) **4.35 Catchphrase** (S)(R) **5.20 Britain's Got More Talent** (S) **6.15 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **6.25 ITV News** (S) **6.45 Take Me Out** (S)

8.00 Britain's Got Talent The talent contest's audition phase draws to a close as the judges select one last set of acts to send through to the semi-finals. (S)

9.20 The Keith and Paddy Picture Show (S)
9.50 FILM Jaws (1975) (PG) Steven Spielberg's thriller, starring Roy Scheider, Richard Dreyfuss and Robert Shaw. (S)

10.50 ITV News; Weather (S)
11.05 FILM Jaws (1975) (PG) Concluded. (S)

12.25 Jackpot247 3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes? (S)(R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen

Channel 4

7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond (S)(R) **8.20 Frasier** (S)(R) **9.55 Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix Practice 3 Live** (S) **11.25 Formula 1 Meets Claire Williams** (S) **11.55 Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix Qualifying Live** (S) **2.30 World's Most Expensive Cars** (S) **3.30 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun** (S)(R) **4.30 Big House, Little House** (S) **5.35 Location, Location, Location** (S)(R) **6.30 Channel 4 News** (S)

7.00 The Restoration Man George Clarke meets a retired businessman who plans to restore a Georgian gazebo tower in Pembroke. (S)(R)

8.00 Walks with My Dog Ben Fogle takes his Labrador along the banks of the Thames and Emma Kennedy and her maltipoo puppy visit the Lake District. (S)

9.00 FILM The World's End (2013) (15) Five childhood friends reunite for a pub crawl in their home town, only to stumble on a threat to the entire human race. Sci-fi comedy, with Simon Pegg. (S)

11.10 FILM Die Hard 2 (1990) (18) Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis and Bonnie Bedelia. (S)

1.25 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S)(R) **2.20** The Last Leg (S)(R) **3.15** Hollyoaks (S)(R) **5.25** Shipping Wars UK (S)(R) **5.55 FILM Weekend of a Champion (2013) (PG)** (S)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.10 The Fairly OddParents (S)(R) **10.45 Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud** (S)(R) **11.10 Police Interceptors: Dog Squad** (S)(R) **12.05 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole** (S)(R) **3.05 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door** A Monmouthshire man fenced in by his neighbours. (S)(R) **4.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away** (S)(R)

7.00 Cricket on 5 England v South Africa. Action from the second one-dayer in the three-match series, held at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton. (S)

8.00 5 News Weekend (S)
8.05 NCIS: Los Angeles Part one of two. (S)
8.55 NCIS (S)

9.50 NCIS: Act of Vengeance Feature-length episode. The team reels in the wake of the terrorist attack. (S)(R)

11.40 Undercover Benefits Cheat Paul Connolly exposes more benefits fraudsters. (S)

12.10 SuperCasino 3.10 FILM The Punisher (1989) (18) Vigilante thriller, starring Dolph Lundgren. (S) **4.40** Access (S)(R) **4.50** House Doctor (S)(R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS (S)(R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm (S)(R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

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ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 Emmerdale **8.25** Coronation Street **10.55** Britain's Got Talent **12.10** Britain's Got More Talent **1.10** Take Me Out **2.25** Take Me Out – The Gossip **3.25** You've Been Framed! Gold Unleashed! **4.30** FILM: Space Chimps (2008) (U) **5.30** FYI Daily **5.35** FILM: Space Chimps (2008) (U) **6.10** FILM: Red Riding Hood (2011) (12) **7.10** FYI Daily **7.15** FILM: Red Riding Hood (2011) (12) Concluded. **8.15** Scorpion **9.20** Britain's Got More Talent **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.20** Family Guy **12.45** American Dad! **1.15** FILM: Bring It On (2000) (12) **2.15** FYI Daily **2.20** FILM: Bring It On (2000) (12) **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 Judge Judy **6.20** Murder, She Wrote **8.05** Sherlock Holmes: The Eligible Bachelor **10.20** FILM: Columbo: The Greenhouse Jungle (1972) (PG) **11.50** Jane Eyre **2.05** FILM: Carry On Loving (1970) (PG) **3.15** FYI Daily **3.20** FILM: Carry On Loving (1970) (PG) **4.00** Lewis **6.00** Rosemary & Thyme **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Foyle's War **11.10** Law & Order: UK **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 Saints and Sinners: Britain's Millennium of Monasteries **8.00** Nature's Great Events **9.00** Hinterland **10.30** Top of the Pops: 1983 **12.00** The Joy of the Bee Gees **1.00** Bee Gees at the BBC and Beyond **2.00** Boogie Fever: A TOTP2 Disco Special **3.30** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 The Goldbergs **7.50** Black-ish **8.15** Made in Chelsea **9.20** Melissa & Joey **12.00** The Goldbergs **2.30** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **2.40** The Big Bang Theory **6.45** FILM: The Three Musketeers (2011) (12) Swashbuckling adventure, starring Logan Lerman. **9.00** FILM: The A-Team (2010) (12) Action adventure, starring Liam Neeson. **11.25** Gogglebox **1.35** Rude Tube **2.35** Tattoo Fixers **3.25** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **4.10** How I Met Your Mother

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Homes by the Sea **9.55** Location, Location, Location **11.00** Coast vs Country **12.05** Come Dine with Me **2.40** Four in a Bed **5.25** Come Dine with Me **8.00** Hitler: The Rise and Fall **9.00** The Nazi Olympics **10.05** The World's Most Extreme **11.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **12.15** Father Ted **1.20** Hitler: The Rise and Fall **2.20** The Nazi Olympics **3.20** 8 Out of 10 Cats **4.00** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010) (PG) **1.00** Casper (1995) (PG) **3.05** Napoleon Dynamite (2004) (PG) **4.55** Johnny English (2003) (PG) **6.35** Beautiful Creatures (2013) (12) Fantasy, starring Alden Ehrenreich. **9.00** The Day After Tomorrow (2004) (12) Disaster thriller, starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Dennis Quaid. **11.25** Insidious (2010) (15) Horror, starring Patrick Wilson and Rose Byrne. **1.30** The Haunting in Connecticut (2009) (15) **3.40** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

6.00 Home Shopping **7.10** Lizard Lick Towing **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Dara O Briain's Go 8 Bit **10.00** Go 8 Bit: DLC **10.30** Top Gear **12.30** Cops UK: Bodycam Squad **2.30** Sin City Motors **3.30** Top Gear Vietnam Special **5.00** Gavin & Stacey **7.00** Cops UK: Bodycam Squad **9.00** FILM: The Outlaw Josey Wales (1976) (18) Western, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. **11.40** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **12.40** Would I Lie to You? **1.20** Would I Lie to You? The Unseen Bits **2.00** QI XL **2.50** Dave Gorman: Modern Life Is Goodish **4.00** Home Shopping

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.15 New Tricks **8.00** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **9.00** Taggart **11.55** Waking the Dead **2.10** New Tricks **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Ashley Banjo's Secret Street Crew **7.00** Monkey Business **8.30** Hawaii Five-0 **11.30** The F1 Show **12.00** Futurama **2.30** Modern Family **5.00** Supergirl **6.00** The Flash **7.00** MacGyver **8.00** Football's Funniest Moments **9.00** The Simpsons **10.00** A League of Their Own US Road Trip **11.00** Jamestown **12.00** Hawaii Five-0 **2.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **3.00** The Five **4.00** Stop, Search, Seize **5.00** Zoo Tales

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 The Guest Wing **7.00** Fish Town **9.00** Storm City **11.00** San Francisco 2.0 **12.00** FILM: Dinosaur 13 (2014) (PG) **2.00** Cold Case **4.00** House **6.00** FILM: The Fall: Decker vs Budd (2016) **8.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Game of Thrones **10.10** Mommy Dead and Dearest: The Story of Dee Dee **11.50** Last Week Tonight with John Oliver **12.25** Real Time with Bill Maher **1.35** The Borgias **2.45** Girls **4.00** Networks of Power with Sir Christopher Meyer

W SKY: 109

6.15 Judge Faith **7.00** Extreme Makeover: Home Edition **8.00** The Bill **1.00** EastEnders **3.30** Tom Kerridge's Best Ever Dishes **4.00** Dynamo: Magician Impossible **7.00** FILM: The Spiderwick Chronicles (2008) (PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Freddie Highmore. **9.00** FILM: Black Hawk Down (2001) (15) Fact-based military drama, starring Josh Hartnett. **11.55** Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders **12.45** Grimm **1.45** Code Black **2.30** Russell Howard's Good News **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.00 Yes, Prime Minister **7.35** Last of the Summer Wine **9.20** The Best of Tommy Cooper **10.25** Only Fools and Horses **12.00** The Two Ronnies Spectacle **1.00** Bob Monkhouse: Million Joke Man **2.00** The Interviews **3.00** The Brittas Empire **4.20** One Foot in the Grave **5.40** Only Fools and Horses **7.00** The Black Adder **7.40** Blackadder II **8.20** Not Going Out **9.00** Men Behaving Badly **9.40** Harry Enfield and Chums **10.20** Little Britain **11.00** Black Books **12.10** Spaced **12.40** Monty Python's Best Bits (Mostly) **1.20** House of Fools **2.30** Nighty Night **3.30** Little Britain **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Super Rugby Gold **6.10** Live Super Rugby. **8.10** Super Rugby Gold **8.30** Live Super Rugby. **10.30** Kell Brook: My Greatest Night **11.00** Kell Brook – Behind the Ropes **11.30** Errol Spence Jr – Behind the Ropes **12.00** Kell Brook's Greatest Hits **12.30** Kell Brook: My Greatest Night **1.00** Kell Brook v Errol Spence Jr: The Countdown 1 **1.30** Kell Brook v Errol Spence Jr: The Countdown 2 **2.00** Live Scottish Cup Final. Celtic v Aberdeen (kick-off 3.00pm). **5.30** Live PRO12 Rugby Union Final. Coverage of the showpiece match (kick-off 6.15pm). **8.45** Scottish Cup Final Highlights **9.15** Spanish Football Gold **9.30** Football Gold **10.05** Scottish Cup Final Highlights **10.35** Live Super Rugby. Jaguares v Brumbies (kick-off 10.40pm). **12.30** PRO12 Rugby Union **1.30** Premier League 100 Club **2.00** Scottish Cup Final Highlights **2.30** Premier League 100 Club **3.00** PRO12 Rugby Union **4.00** Sporting Heroes: Johnny Nelson Interviews Tim Witherspoon **5.00** Premier League 100 Club **5.30** Spanish Football Gold

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Thursday, May 25 - Wednesday, May 31, 2017

www.oxfordpropertyweekly.co.uk

This property showcased courtesy of David Tate. To view the property details, see inside.

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Walking through you come into the piano room, with patio doors leading out onto the sun terrace, perfect for your morning coffee.

A statement fireplace, open to both sides, separates the dining area, which flows into the family room with bi-folding doors overlooking the fountain and beyond into the garden. The sleek contemporary kitchen designed by 'In Toto' offers a real wow factor, with corian work surfaces and integrated appliances. A door leads out to the utility room, with work surfaces, space for appliances and a door leading onto the garden.

Further on the ground floor there is a study, bathroom and additional reception currently used as an informal lounge area, this could comfortably be used as a ground floor guest bedroom if required.

The sleeping quarters are on split levels, with two bedrooms and the beautiful family bathroom on the first floor. A few steps up leads to the master suite with vaulted ceiling, far reaching views, a separate dressing area and stunning en-suite bathroom. Down the landing is a further guest bedroom with views over the garden and contemporary en-suite shower room.

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To arrange a viewing contact selling agent Davis Tate Wantage 01235 772670 or visit www.davistate.com

How is Oxford's rental market changing?

Bill Cooper, co-author of The Oxford Property Blog and managing director of Martin and Co, Oxford

In Oxford, like the rest of England, around 20% of all homes are now rented. A recent survey of people showed a decrease in the proportion of young people (under the age of 35) who own their own home, and separately another study showed an increase in the number of people who don't ever expect to own a home. Of greatest concern to first time buyers is their ability to save for the deposit required under the new mortgage lending rules.

So, what does this mean for Oxford's private rented sector? Firstly, growth in demand in the City seems likely to be sustained over coming years. Whilst UK government policy is making life financially harder for landlords, it reflects a recognition that the private rented sector has become an important and permanent part of the urban housing landscape. As more and more people depend on private rented homes for longer periods of their life, it has become important for government to appeal to this group of voters by being seen to help them (e.g via a future ban on fees charged to tenants). It has also become much more important that the private rented sector can withstand a financial shock. Bearing down on landlords with high levels of debt by increasing the cost of entry for new investment (via the stamp duty surcharge), and increasing the cost of debt (via the reduction of mortgage interest rate relief; and the introduction of tougher loan to value ratios), should reduce the long-term volatility in the sector. How? Well, in the short-term as highly geared landlords choose to sell some or all of their portfolios volatility looks set to increase. This may bear down on property prices for a period, but as far as government is concerned that's OK – they welcome anything that reduces the cost of housing for owner occupiers. Their calculation is that over the longer term, professional landlord's – private and corporate, will fill the void, create a more robust private rented sector with long-term investment strategies and with sustainable levels of debt.

In Oxford, it seems likely that the impact of government policy will be felt more acutely because the entry cost of property is relatively high, the average rental yield is relatively low and landlord returns have been dependent on the capital appreciation of property year on year. Because of that, rents in Oxford have risen more slowly, as landlords recognized the need to ease the rental cost for tenants during some tough years between 2008 and 2015, relying instead on predictable capital growth.

Looking forward, I believe that a significant trend in Oxford will be an increase in demand for rented family homes. As tenants either choose not to buy their own property, or feel unable to save for a deposit, they will spend longer in the properties they occupy. As their families grow they will look for different accommodation that better suits their needs, and location will be determined by different factors such as proximity to schools, access to commuter routes and child friendly open spaces.

Oxford caters well for this maturing and shifting demand. Places like Littlemore, Greater Leys, Marston & Headington, Hinksey, Osney and Grandpont with their terraced and semi-detached homes offer a wide choice of property for renting families. Often, such properties have been licensed as houses in multiple occupation by landlords, and whilst that demand will continue, there will be growing demand for well presented, modernized family homes in the City's private rented sector.

In addition to demand for family homes, I believe that there will be demand for longer tenancies and new models for renting. I was alerted by a client and blog reader this week to 'rent to own' models that have become established in other markets, and which are gaining traction in the UK. These are long-term agreements between landlords and their tenants, which provide the tenants with security of tenure, and the option to buy at a date in the future. The landlord benefits from long-term, stable income and an assured future exit. As government policy tightens, and investment returns reduce, landlords will demand stable, less volatile income streams, over the longer periods of time. They will accept lower returns provided they are predictable and stable.

Tenants will remain in the rented sector through extended stages of their lives, and will also demand greater security of tenure, the ability to put down roots, personalizing their homes to their needs.

We property professionals who work with, support and guide our clients with their property investments, need to be ahead of the curve to innovate and allows tenants and landlords to meet each other's needs by enabling new models to be introduced. Failure to innovate by landlords, tenants and their agents will undermine the private rented market over the coming 5 years.

For more informed comment on Oxford's property market visit: www.OxfordPropertyBlog.co.uk

PROPERTY WEEKLY

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Artist's impression

King's Court, Carterton
Homes from £185,000

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Shipon £395,000

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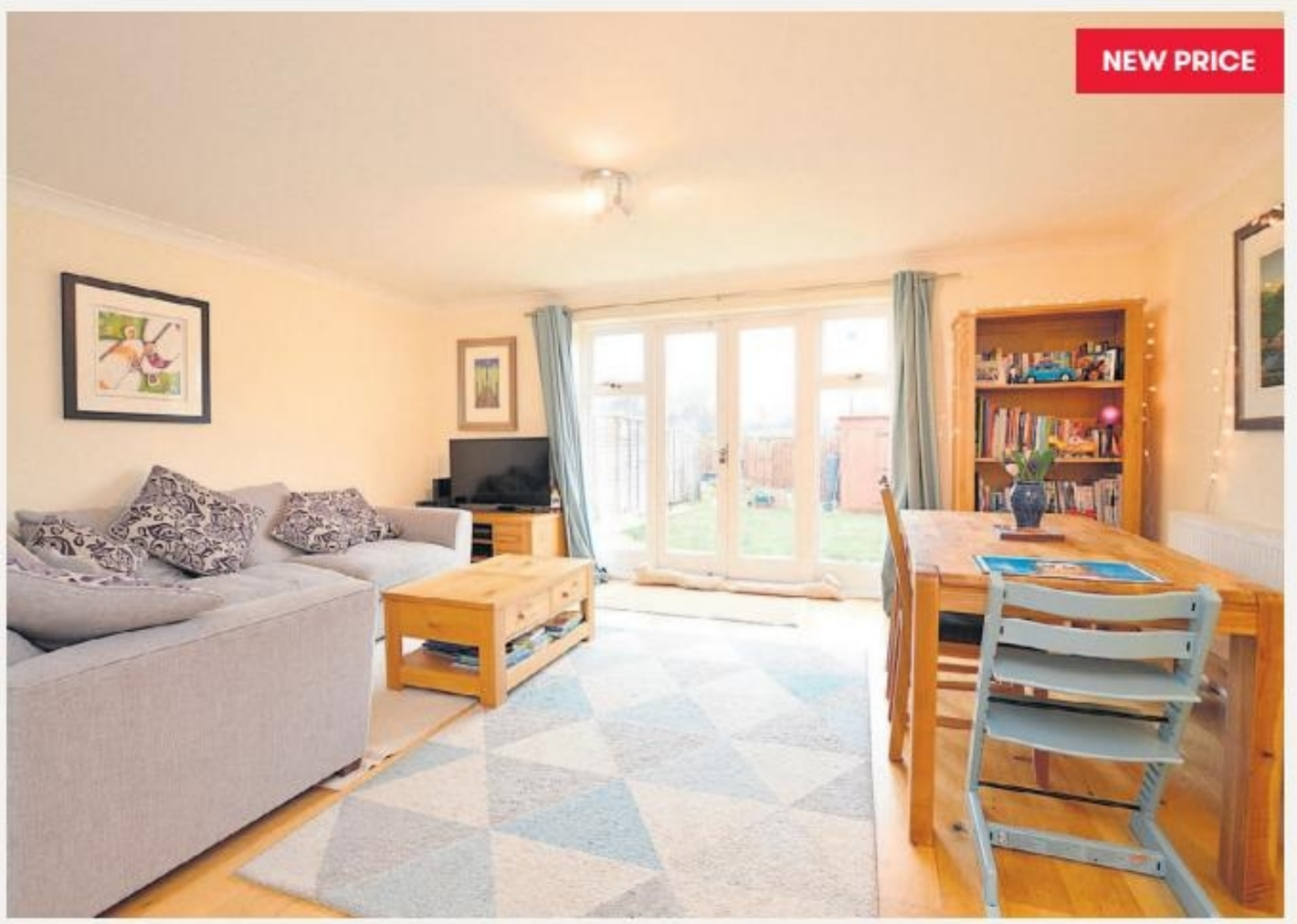
Abingdon £265,000

Three bedroom home with neutral decor throughout and spacious 14' sitting room. EPC rating C.

Abingdon £269,950

Two bedroom terraced house in North Abingdon, popular due to its proximity to Abingdon town centre within 1.5 miles. Awaiting EPC Rating.



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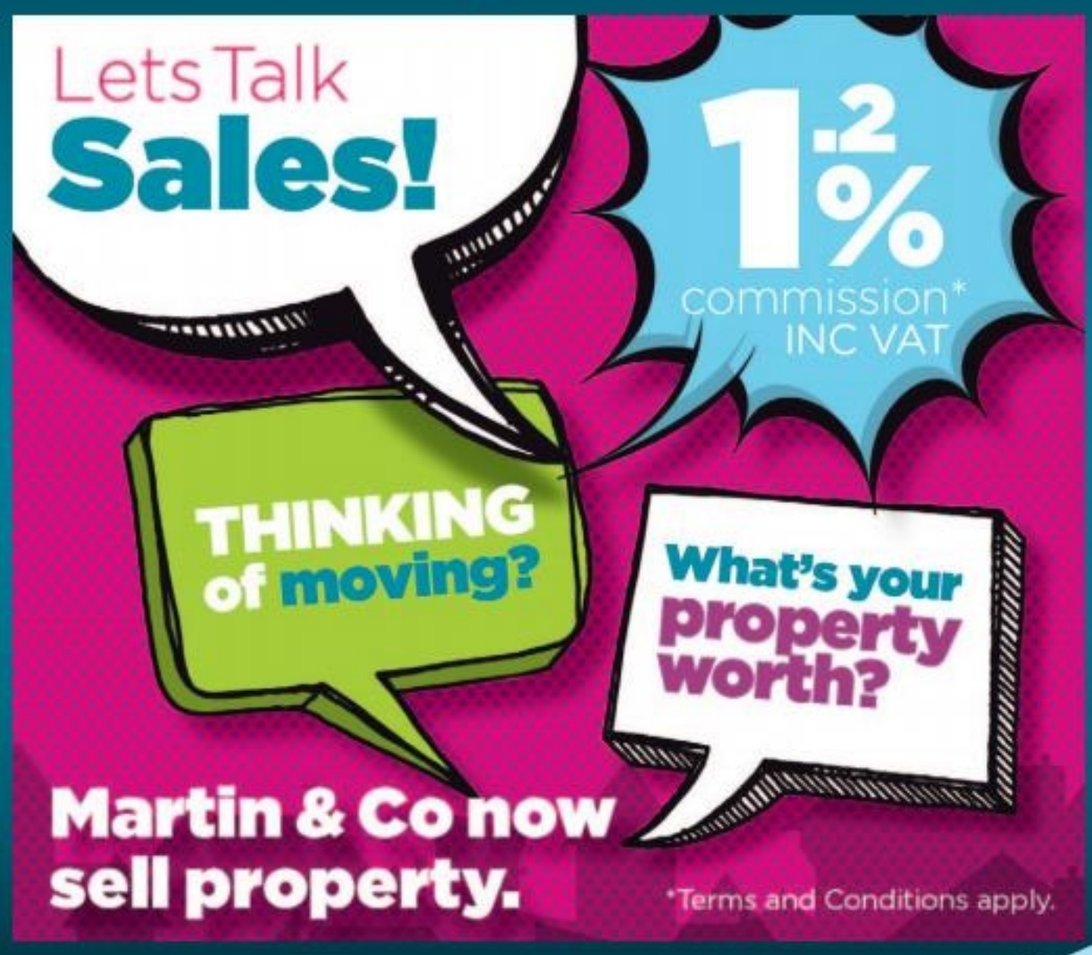

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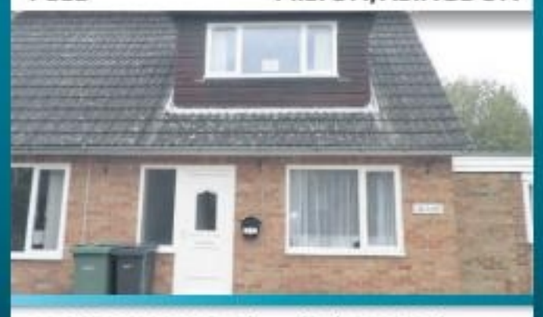

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Sunday May 28th

DAYTIME

BBC1

9.00 The Andrew Marr Show (S) **10.00 The Big Questions** (S) **11.00 Sunday Politics** (S) **12.15 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **1.15 Homes Under the Hammer** (S)(R) **2.15 Money for Nothing** (S)(R) **3.00 Flog It!** (S)(R) **3.45 Shop Well for Less?** (S)(R) **4.45 Points of View** (S) **5.00 Songs of Praise** (S) **5.35 Escape to the Country** (S)(R) **6.05 BBC News** (S) **6.20 BBC Regional News** (S) **6.30 Countryfile** (S)

BBC2

8.00 The Beechgrove Garden (S) **8.30 Countryfile** (S)(R) **9.30 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites** (S) **11.00 Great British Menu** (S)(R) **12.00 Live Athletics: Great Manchester Run** (S) **2.30 Athletics: Diamond League Highlights** (S) **3.30 Rowing: European Championships Highlights** (S) **5.00 Athletics: Great Manchester Run Highlights** (S) **6.00 Golf: PGA Championship** (S)

ITV

6.00 CITV 8.25 ITV News (S) **8.30 Weekend** (S) **9.25 Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury** (S)(R) **10.00 Peston on Sunday** (S) **10.55 Judge Rinder** (S)(R) **1.00 ITV News;** Weather (S) **1.05 Tipping Point** (S)(R) **2.05 The Chase** (S)(R) **3.05 Britain's Got Talent** (S)(R) **4.15 FILM The Spy Who Loved Me (1977) (PG)** (S) **6.40 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **6.45 ITV News** (S)

Channel 4

7.30 Frasier (S)(R) **9.00 Sunday Brunch** (S) **12.00 Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix Live Build-Up** (S) **12.35 Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix Live** (S) **3.10 Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix Live Reaction** A review of the sixth round of the season. (S) **4.30 World's Most Expensive Cars** (S) **5.30 George Clarke's Old House, New Home** (S)(R) **6.30 Channel 4 News** (S)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! 9.50 The Fairly OddParents (S)(R) **10.25 The Gadget Show** (S)(R) **11.20 Police Interceptors** (S)(R) **1.15 Police Interceptors: Under Attack** (S)(R) **2.15 FILM Open Season 3 (2010) (U)** (S) **3.45 FILM Pudsey the Dog: The Movie (2014) (U)** (S) **5.30 Most Shocking Talent Show Moments** A countdown of memorable incidents and controversial contestants. (S)(R)

7

BBC1	BBC2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
7.30 Antiques Roadshow Fiona Bruce presents the show from an 18th-century cotton mill on the banks of the River Clyde. (S)	**7.00 Dragons' Den** The panel assesses the profit-making potential of business plans including wearable maps. Evan Davis presents. (S)(R)	**7.00 Bigheads** With Jason Manford. Last in the series. (S)	**7.00 The Supervet** A German pointer struggling to walk must have spinal surgery or face the prospect of being put to sleep. (S)(R)	**7.55 5 News Weekend** (S)

8

BBC1	BBC2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
8.30 Damilola, Our Loved Boy Fact-based drama, starring Babou Ceesay and Wunmi Mosaku. (S)(R)	**8.00 The Life Swap Adventure** New series. Volunteers swap places with people from other countries. (S)	**8.00 The Durrells** The family's maid goes into labour, so Larry rushes to fetch Dr Petrides. Last in the series. (S)	**8.00 Cabins in the Wild with Dick Strawbridge** Dick and Will visit a cabin inspired by a national coal pit and a modernist design made entirely from slate. (S)	**8.00 Holidays Make You Laugh Out Loud** Iain Lee narrates a compilation of internet videos involving holidays. (S)

9

BBC1	BBC2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
	9.00 Paul Hollywood's Big Continental Road Trip New series. The Bake Off judge takes a series of road trips across Europe. (S)	**9.00 Grantchester** Sidney resolves to resign from the church so he can marry Amanda. Last in the series. (S)	**9.00 The Handmaid's Tale** New series. Dystopian drama based on Margaret Atwood's novel about a future American theocracy. (S)	**9.00 When Kids TV Goes Horribly Wrong** Andi Peters narrates a compilation of classic children's TV mishaps, including a fire in the Blue Peter studio. (S)

10

BBC1	BBC2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
10.00 BBC News (S) **10.25 BBC Regional News** (S) **10.35 Room 101 – Extra Storage** With Claudia Winkleman, John Humphrys and Russell Kane. (S)(R)	**10.00 White Gold** Comedy drama, starring Ed Westwick. (S)(R) **10.30 FILM The Damned United (2009) (15)** Starring Michael Sheen, Timothy Spall and Jim Broadbent. (S)	**10.00 ITV News;** Weather (S) **10.20 Peston on Sunday** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston. Allegra Stratton presents a guide to the latest issues on social media. (S)(R)	**10.15 Gogglebox** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (S)(R)	

11

BBC1	BBC2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
11.15 Murder in Successville The best bits from series three. (S) **11.45 The Women's Football Show** A look at the biggest issues in the women's game. (S)		**11.20 Premiership Rugby Union** Highlights of the final. Last in the series.	**11.15 Micky Flanagan: Back in the Game** The comedian performs to his home crowd at London's Hackney Empire. (S)(R)	

AFTER 12

BBC1	BBC2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
12.20 FILM Lucky Them (2013) (15) Comedy drama, starring Toni Collette. (S) **1.50** Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **1.55** BBC News (S)	**12.00 FILM Easy Money ■ (2012) (15)** Crime thriller sequel, starring Joel Kinnaman. **1.35** Sign Zone: Question Time (S)(R) **2.35** Holby City (S)(R) **3.35** This Is BBC Two (S)	**12.15 Lethal Weapon** (S)(R) **1.00** Jackpot247 **3.00** Motorsport UK (S)(R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show (S)(R)	**12.50 Arnie's Greatest Ever Stunts** (S)(R) **2.15 FILM Blue Ruin (2014) (15)** (S) **3.50** Location, Location, Location (S)(R) **4.45** Jamie's Comfort Food (S)(R) **4.55** Jamie's Comfort Food (S)(R) **5.05** KOTV Boxing Weekly (S) **5.30** Gillette World Sport (S)	**12.00 Football on 5: The Play-offs** (S) **12.25** Dumb Drivers: Caught in the Act (S)(R) **1.15** SuperCasino **3.10** Top 20 Funniest (S) **3.55** Access (S)(R) **4.00** World's Most Pampered Pets (S)(R) **4.50** House Doctor (S)(R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS (S)(R)

DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **6.25** You've Been Framed! Gold **6.45** Emmerdale **9.15** Coronation Street **11.50** Take Me Out **1.05** FILM: Richie Rich (1994) (PG) **2.10** FYI Daily **2.15** FILM: Richie Rich (1994) (PG) Continued. **2.55** FILM: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) (U) Comedy sequel, starring Chris O'Donnell. **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00** FILM: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) (U) Concluded. **4.40** Britain's Got Talent **6.00** Britain's Got More Talent **7.00** FILM: Despicable Me (2010) (U) Animated comedy, with the voice of Steve Carell. **8.00** FYI Daily **8.05** FILM: Despicable Me (2010) (U) Concluded. **9.00** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **1.25** Through the Keyhole **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 Jane Eyre **8.00** Heartbeat **10.05** Murder, She Wrote **12.15** FILM: Carry On Loving (1970) (PG) **1.15** FYI Daily **1.20** FILM: Carry On Loving (1970) (PG) **2.10** FILM: Columbo: The Most Crucial Game (1972) (PG) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Robert Culp. **3.45** Foyle's War **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Royal Stories **9.00** By Royal Appointment **10.05** Law & Order: UK **12.05** Wire in the Blood **3.25** May the Best House Win **5.05** In Loving Memory **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 Perfect Pianists at the BBC **8.00** Radio 1's Big Weekend: Highlights **9.10** Kings of Leon Live at Radio 1's Big Weekend **10.00** Arena: American Epic **11.00** Blues at the BBC **12.00** The Man Who Brought the Blues to Britain: Big Bill Broonzy **1.00** Jago: A Life Underwater **1.50** Nature's Great Events **2.50** Engineering Giants: Jumbo Jet Strip-Down **3.50** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Couples Come Dine with Me **6.55** Hollyoaks **9.30** Made in Chelsea **10.35** The Goldbergs **12.00** Black-ish **12.30** Baby Daddy **1.00** Kevin Can Wait **1.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** New Girl **2.30** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **2.50** FILM: A Turtle's Tale: Sammy's Adventures (2010) (U) Animated adventure, with the voice of Dominic Cooper. **4.30** FILM: Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) (PG) Family comedy, starring Jim Carrey. **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Rude Tube **11.00** 8 Out of 10 Cats **11.55** Tattoo Fixers **2.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.50** Rude Tube **3.40** Hollyoaks

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Coast vs Country **10.00** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb **11.00** Grand Designs New Zealand **12.05** Come Dine with Me **2.40** Four in a Bed **5.20** Come Dine with Me **7.55** The Secret Life of the Zoo **9.00** Father Ted **10.00** Lee Mack: Hit the Road Mack **11.05** It Was Alright in the 1990s **12.10** Ramsay's Hotel Hell **2.00** 8 Out of 10 Cats: Best Bits **2.50** It Was Alright in the 1990s **3.45** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (2011) (U) Children's comedy sequel, starring Zachary Gordon. **1.00** Thunderbirds Are Go! (1966) (U) **2.55** The Dark Crystal (1982) (PG) Puppet fantasy, with the voice of Stephen Garlick. **4.40** Small Soldiers (1998) (PG) Children's adventure, with Kirsten Dunst. **6.45** The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013) (PG) Comedy drama, starring Ben Stiller. **9.00** 2 Guns (2013) (15) Action adventure, starring Denzel Washington and Mark Wahlberg. **11.10** Odd Thomas (2013) (15) Supernatural thriller, starring Anton Yelchin. **1.00** A Girl at My Door (2014) (18) **3.30** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

6.00 Home Shopping **7.10** Lizard Lick Towing **8.00** Top Gear **10.00** Steve Austin's Broken Skull Challenge **10.55** Top Gear Vietnam Special **12.30** Lizard Lick Towing **2.00** Deadly 60 **4.00** Top Gear India Special **6.00** Top Gear **7.00** Motorway Cops **8.00** Traffic Cops **9.00** QI XL **10.00** Unspun with Matt Forde **10.30** Would I Lie to You? **11.10** Taskmaster **12.10** Live at the Apollo **1.10** Room 101 **2.25** QI XL **3.15** Would I Lie to You? **4.00** Home Shopping

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.25 New Tricks **6.40** Call the Midwife **8.00** Mercy Street **9.00** Silent Witness **11.20** Spooks **1.55** Call the Midwife **3.05** Mercy Street **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Hour of Power **7.00** Futurama **9.30** Supergirl **10.30** The Flash **11.30** WWE Raw Hits **12.30** Pirates of the Caribbean: Salazar's Revenge: Special **1.00** Big Cats: An Amazing Animal Family **3.00** Modern Family **6.00** The Simpsons **8.00** Duck Quacks Don't Echo **9.00** Hawaii Five-0 **10.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **11.00** MacGyver **12.00** The Force: Essex **1.00** Hawaii Five-0 **2.00** Arrow **3.00** The Five **4.00** Stop, Search, Seize **5.00** Zoo Tales

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 Fish Town **9.00** Storm City **11.00** House **1.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Twin Peaks: The Return **11.10** Veep **11.45** Westworld **1.25** Girls **2.00** Twin Peaks: The Return **4.20** Networks of Power with Sir Christopher Meyer

W SKY: 109

6.00 Judge Faith **7.00** My Family **7.40** Celebrity MasterChef **1.00** Doctor Who **4.00** My Family **6.00** Outnumbered **8.00** Dr Christian Will See You Now **9.00** Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders **10.00** Ordinary Lies **11.10** Louis Theroux's LA Stories **12.10** Inside the Ambulance **1.10** Grimm **2.00** Code Black **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.00 Yes, Prime Minister **7.35** The Brittas Empire **8.50** The Interviews **9.50** One Foot in the Grave **11.10** The Black Adder **12.00** The Two Ronnies Spectacle **1.00** Bob Monkhouse: Million Joke Man **2.00** The Interviews **3.00** Open All Hours **5.00** Porridge **6.20** Citizen Khan **7.40** Fawlty Towers **9.00** The Trip **9.40** I'm Alan Partridge **10.20** Knowing Me, Knowing You – With Alan Partridge **11.00** FILM: The Full Monty (1997) (15) Comedy, starring Robert Carlyle. **12.45** The Thick of It **1.25** The League of Gentlemen **2.00** Inside No 9 **3.15** Nighty Night **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Football Gold **7.00** Scottish Cup Final Highlights **7.30** Premier League Legends **8.30** Scottish Cup Final Highlights **9.00** PRO12 Rugby Union **10.00** Premier League 100 Club **10.30** Scottish Cup Final Highlights **11.00** Football Gold **11.30** PRO12 Rugby Union **12.30** Scottish Cup Final Highlights **1.00** Sky Sports Boxing Gold **2.00** Scottish Cup Final Highlights **2.30** Live League Two Play-Off Final. Blackpool v Exeter City (kick-off 3.00pm). **5.30** Formula 1 **6.30** Football's Greatest Teams **7.00** International Rugby Union **9.30** Football's Greatest Teams **10.00** One-Day International Cricket **11.00** Live HSBC Women's World Rugby Sevens. The Canada Sevens. **2.45** Darts Gold **4.00** Sporting Heroes: Brian Moore Interviews Dave Mackay **5.00** Premier League 100 Club **5.30** Spanish Football Gold

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ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

Strictly delighted to be on tour

By Samantha McGregor

STRICTLY Come Dancing professional couple Kevin and Karen Clifton will stop off in Oxford as part of their first UK tour.

Taking in a total of 22 venues, the tour kicks off at the end of this month, stopping in Oxford at the New Theatre for one night on June 20.

The pair will take audiences on a sultry, hip-swinging journey through the waltz, cha cha, fox trot, tango and salsa.

This high-energy performance is filled with sassy tunes, heart-pounding choreography and sparkling costumes.

The show is backed by a supporting cast of dancers with a live 12-piece show band and each venue will be offering members of the audience an opportunity to be up on stage to dance with Kevin and Karen in the spotlight.

The couple, who met on stage and got engaged during a live stage performance on Broadway said they are "delighted" to be touring their very own stage show.

In a joint statement, Kevin and Karen said "landing their very own tour is a dream come true".

They said: "We can't wait to share with audiences up and down the country, the culmination of years of experiences and work in dance through both of our lives from completely different directions, from Venezuela to Grimsby, all in one night."

World champion dancers Kevin and Karen are now established as one of Strictly's most popular dance couples.

Karen has appeared in four series of TV's most watched programme, partnering Nicky Byrne from Westlife, 'Hairy Biker' Dave Myers, Jeremy Vine, and reaching the final with Mark Wright.

Kevin set a new Strictly record on the last series by becoming the first professional ever to reach the final for three consecutive years.

After making a spectacular debut with Breakfast News presenter Susanna Reid, he went on to make finals with popstar Frankie Bridge and EastEnders actress Kellie Bright.

This year Karen was partnered with singer Will Young and Kevin with singer and TV presenter Louise Redknapp.

The couple have recently launched the Kevin and Karen Dance School which offers children the chance to take ballroom and Latin classes in a non-competitive, happy and fun environment.

For tickets go to atgtickets.com/oxford

Join Pam and her poems

ONE of the nation's favourite comedians Pam Ayres returns to the Oxford Playhouse on June 2.

Pam has been making the nation laugh for over 40 years with her funny, warm yet charming understated manner.

Tickets for An Evening with Pam Ayres cost £24 and are available from the ticket office on 01865 305305 or go to oxfordplayhouse.com

Relive Beatle-mania

MUSIC: Cornerstone Arts Centre will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the release of Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band with the Magic of the Beatles.

In 1962, four friends changed the world, becoming one of the biggest bands the world has ever known.

The show takes place on Saturday, June 17, for more information or tickets view cornerstone-arts.org

Singing the Blues

MUSIC: Three-time European Blues winner Ian Siegal plays a special acoustic solo performance at The Beacon in Wantage.

The Blues and Americana singer will take to the stage on June 2.

Tickets from £13, go to beacon-wantage.co.uk or call the box office on 01235 763 456.

Sweet sweet music

MUSIC: The ultimate celebration of sweet Motown music is at New Theatre on June 2.

Dance in the aisle to tunes from legendary artists such as Lionel Richie, The Temptations, Stevie Wonder, The Four Tops, Smokey Robinson and Marvin Gaye.

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ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

Celebrate Vega's anniversary

By Samantha McGregor

LEGENDARY singer-songwriter Suzanne Vega has announced a 2017 anniversary tour with a date in Oxford.

Tickets have gone on sale for the 12-date UK tour which will celebrate the 30th and 25th anniversaries, respectively, of her albums Solitude Standing and 99.9F.

The New York-based singer will perform both in full, as well as more tracks from throughout her distinguished career that has seen her sell more than seven million albums worldwide.

The tour starts in Glasgow on September 22, and she will perform in Gateshead, Bristol, Birmingham, Brighton, London, Manchester, and Cambridge, before finishing up at the New Theatre in Oxford on October 2.

Among the tunes Vega will perform are Luka, Tom's Diner, and Blood Makes Noise.

She said: "These songs were written and recorded many years ago, but I still love playing them live, and have ever since the albums first came out.

"Now to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Solitude Standing and the 25th anniversary of 99.9F, my band and I will perform them both in their entirety for the very first time.

"Please join me for this very special concert."

Vega emerged as a leading figure in the folk-music revival of the early 1980s accompanying herself simply with an acoustic guitar.

She released Solitude Standing - her second album - in 1987. The record charted at number two in the UK and number 11 in the USA, going platinum and earning a nomination for Record of the Year at the Grammys in the process.

She followed up with 99.9F in 1992, an album with a more electronic sound, which was described as both 'industrial folk' and 'techno folk'.

The record was certified gold, and also won a New York Music Award for Best Rock Album.

Suzanne was born in Santa Monica, CA, but grew up in Spanish Harlem and the Upper West Side of New York City. She was influenced by her mother, a computer systems analyst and her stepfather, the Puerto Rican writer Egardo Vega Yunque.

At age 11 she picked up a guitar and as a teenager she started to write songs and the rest as they say is history.

For tickets – which are selling out fast – go to myticket.co.uk.

Array of stars to entertain on Blenheim stage

A HOST of top stars will take to the stage next month for the Nocturne 2017 concert at Blenheim Palace.

Taking place from Thursday June 15 for four nights, the show will feature a host if well-known names.

Jamie Cullum, Gregory Porter and Corinne Bailey Rae will perform at the event on the Saturday.

The trio of award-winning singers, who have sold over 15 million albums between them, will all perform full sets on the night drawing on songs from across their extensive back catalogues.

The Best Of John Williams featuring The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra open the event on Thursday.

Award-winning composer Max Richter takes to the stage on Friday while the Jacksons play on Sunday and feature special guests Kool & The Gang.

Last year the Nocturne concert series saw performances from Elton John, Jack Savoretti, Ennio Morricone and The Corrs.

Tickets from £40, for more information about the concerts go to nocturnelive.com

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ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

Witch's flying visit

By Samantha McGregor

JULIA Donaldson's tall tale of a witch and her companions travelling on a broom is set to take to the Oxford stage.

Whizzing into Oxford Playhouse, on a broom big enough for everyone, Room on the Broom will appear for four shows over Thursday and Friday, June 1 and 2.

This Olivier Award-nominated musical adaptation of the classic picture book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler is the ideal half-term treat for all the family.

This big adventure for little ones features charming puppets and catchy singalong songs.

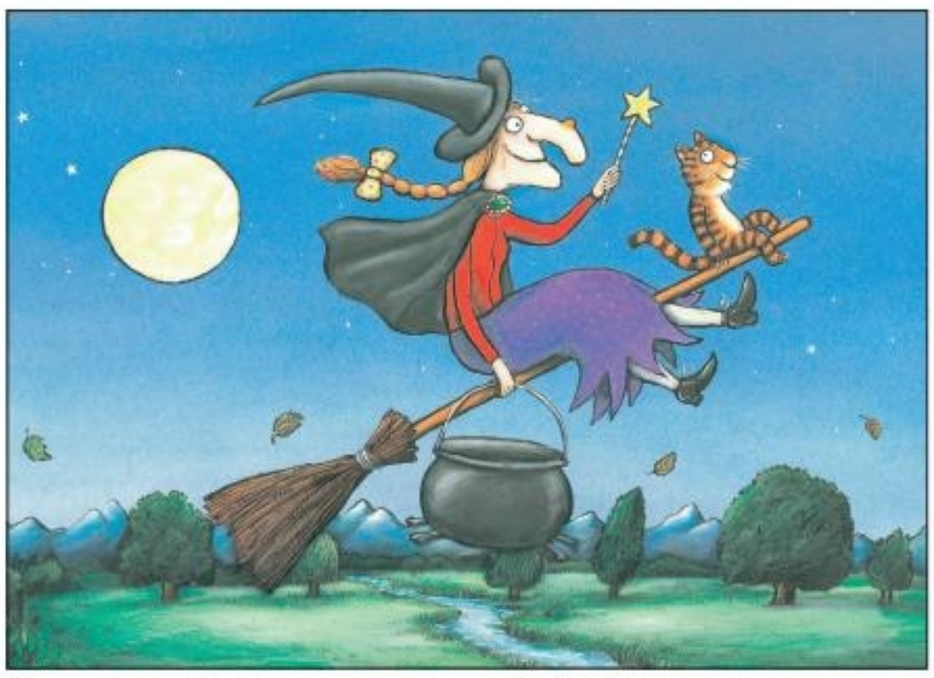
The witch and her cat are travelling on their broomstick when they pick up some hitch-hikers – a friendly dog, a beautiful green bird and a crazy frog.

But this broomstick's not meant for five and – crack – it snaps in two, just as the hungry dragon appears.

Can her new friends help save the witch and what will become of her broom?

Expect lots of laughs, oodles of silliness and plenty of fun for children aged three and up as well as their grown-ups too.

Room on the Broom was also made into a film, which was narrated by Simon Pegg while it had an all-star cast including Gillian Anderson, Rob Brydon, Martin Clunes, Sally Hawkins, Timothy Spall and David Walliams.



Room on the Broom is not the first Julia Donaldson book to be adapted for stage.

One of her biggest successes was The Gruffalo – also her breakthrough book – which was made both into a film and stage play.

The Gruffalo stage play has appeared in London's West End, Sydney Opera House and on Broadway.

Playwright, writer and performer Julia was also the Children's Laureate from 2011 to 2013.

Tickets for Room on the Broom at Oxford Playhouse start at £13 and are available from the ticket office on 01865 305305 or online at oxfordplayhouse.com.

MUSIC: Australian singer-songwriter Emily Barker has released her new album Sweet Kind Of Blue.

Best known for penning themes for award-winning BBC dramas like Wallander and The Shadow Line she will perform at independent record shops up and down the UK throughout May.

This includes Truck Store, in Cowley Road, Oxford on May 25, at 6pm.

Share your Oxford experiences

ART: Modern Art Oxford presents Future Knowledge, an exhibition that will transform the gallery into a public studio to generate ideas and imagine possibilities.

The starting point will be the gallery's home, the city of Oxford. Although Oxford is renowned for its university, many people have a different experience of living in the city.

Running for five weeks, the exhibition is open until June 25.

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ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

Sun-drenched spoof swims more than sinks

Baywatch (15)

By Laurie Bailey

THE practice of adapting long-dead TV shows for the big screen is nothing new. In the last two years alone, we've had The Man From U.N.C.L.E, Dad's Army, Absolutely Fabulous and even Power Rangers attempting to charm the box office.

Now Paramount has dragged Baywatch into its Frankenstein's laboratory, hoping an injection of star power, comedy and trendy music is enough to bring about a rebirth - and against all odds, they may have gotten away with it.

Seth Gordon sets up shop in the beautiful beaches of Miami to direct a new team of young, red-suited lifeguards-slash-beach crime investigators.

Beloved and be-muscled Mitch (Dwayne Johnson) recruits several new members to Baywatch, including two-time Olympic swimming gold medallist Brody (Zac Efron). Unfortunately, Brody is in the middle of a personal and professional meltdown, struggling with alcohol and alienating everyone he meets. Mitch must bring his fledgling team together to keep the beach safe, but also to trace the smuggling of lethal drugs washing up on the shore.

The obvious approach here would be to capitalise on tedious 'ironic' nostalgia, popular with those who pretend being born in 1998 means they remember the 90s. Mercifully, Gordon and Paramount are smarter than this - excepting some brief, obligatory cameos - and clearly have a new franchise in their sights.

Underdog Ronnie (Jon Bass), veteran C.J. (Kelly Rohrbach) and Brody bring most of the laughs, relying on slapstick gags and hapless personal skills, while Summer (Alexandra Daddario), Stephanie (Ilfenesh Hadera) and Mitch play things more seriously.

The balance is an odd one, leering uneasily from sunny spoof to crime drama, often compromising one for the sake of the other.

Yet with such a low-stakes plot and wonderful sunshine, it is hard to worry too much about the clunky moments. With a soundtrack to fit a beach-body workout session and surprisingly un-obnoxious performances, it is clear the filmmakers want nothing more or less than a good time for the audience. Why else would the editor leave in three easy jokes featuring a fish-tank model of Dwayne Johnson?

It won't dazzle or demand a return trip, but at the very least, Baywatch offers two hours of inoffensive, sunny escapism - and a morgue scene you'll still be shaking off a day later.

From left, Jon Bass as Ronnie, Alex Daddario as Summer, Zac Efron as Matt Brody, Dwayne Johnson as Mitch Buchannon, Kelly Rohrbach as CJ Parker, and Ilfenesh Hadera as Stephanie Holden in Baywatch by Paramount Pictures. Credit: Frank Masi

Laurie is an Oxford-based film critic, movie podcast host and BBC Radio Oxford film contributor. He lives locally with his wife, daughter and son. See more of his film reviews at lauriebailey.co.uk

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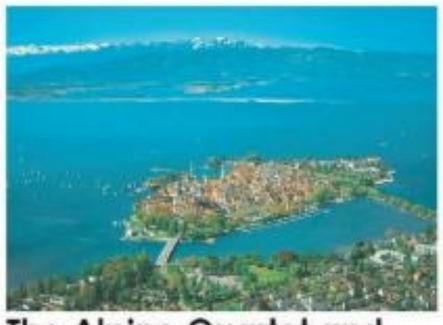

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Advertorial

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Model building and storyboarding workshops take place daily at 10am, 11.30am, 1pm & 2pm. Animate-It workshops take place at 10.30am, 11.30am, 1pm, 2pm & 3pm. All sessions are bookable on arrival on the day. To avoid disappointment please check on arrival as places are limited and subject to availability.

Emma Rawlinson, Lifelong Learning Officer for the British Motor Museum said "Yet again we have plenty going on over the half term holidays. Our animation workshops look set to be a popular activity and we would encourage our younger visitors to start thinking about their film plot as the script is everything!"

All activities are included in the normal Museum entry fee: Adults £14, Children £9 (5-16 years) under 5's free, Concessions £12 & Family £39 (2 adults & up to 3 children). Buy one day and get 12 months free if you Gift Aid your entrance fee.

To find out more information please visit the website at www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk or call 01926 641188. To find out more about Animate-it visit www.animate-it.com.

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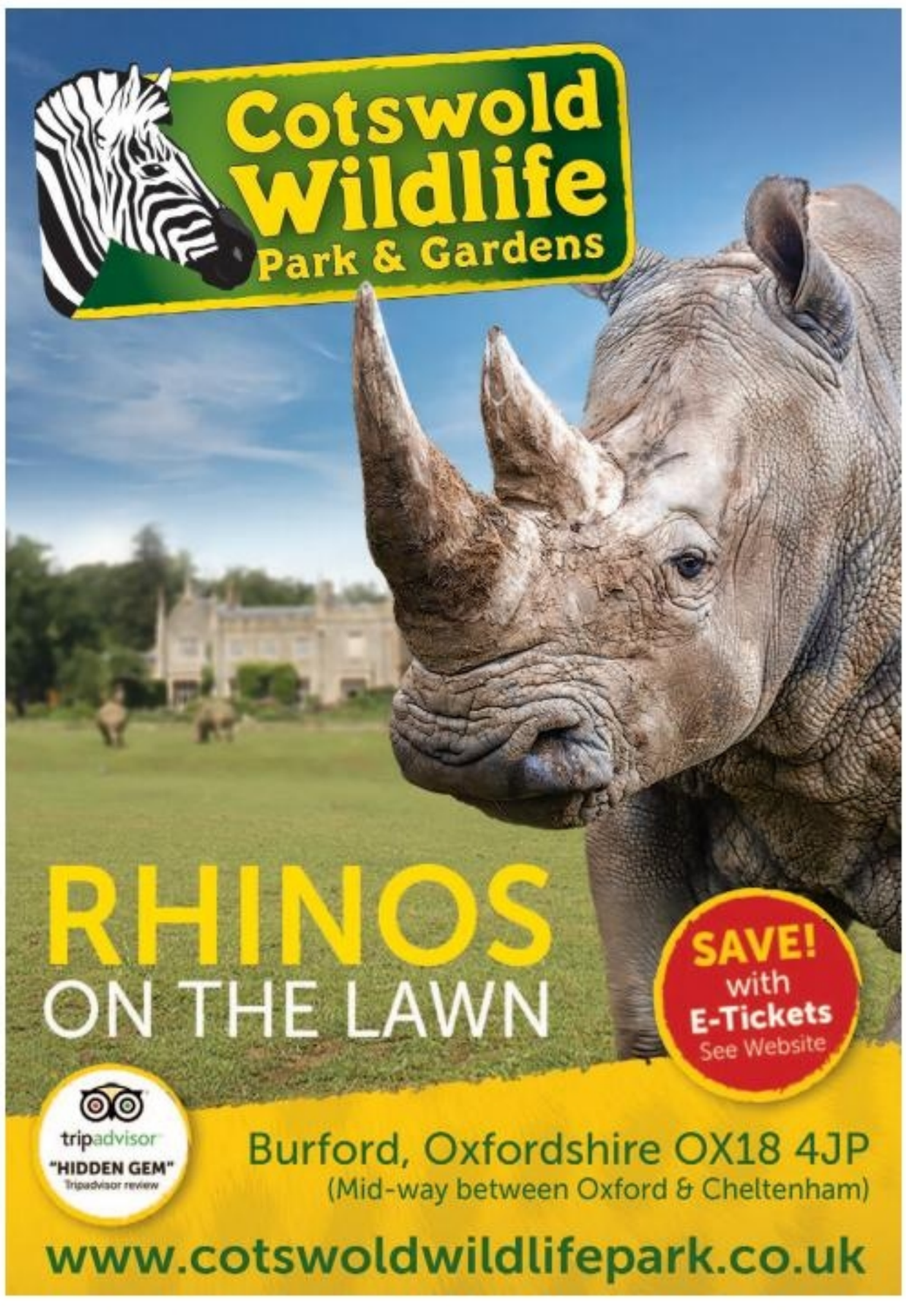

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'I used to work in a kennels and run my own business dog-grooming,' begins Jackie, 'but dogs don't talk and people are more interesting!'

'Then for a long time I worked for a company who offered people short term loans. I used to meet all sorts of people collecting their payments when they were due which I liked. I was self-employed though so I didn't get paid holidays or anything, which I do now, and the pressure from the company was always increasing – they wanted me to encourage people to take on extra loans they couldn't afford and I'm not that sort of person. I wanted to help people not get them into difficulty and so I decided it was time for a complete change.'

'My mum had dementia, Alzheimer's, and had carers come in to look after her and I loved how they looked after her at home, so she could carry on living with my Dad who she'd been married to for ever and being patient, coaxing and caring her dignity they helped support her without taking away any her dignity. Dad enjoyed their visits too as he liked chatting to them. They relieved him of a real burden and my sisters and I felt much more relaxed knowing they were looking after my mum well and so they made a difference to our whole family.'

'It looked so rewarding being able to help people, and to help them in the place that they really wanted to be and so I trained to become a care worker. It's been a real eye-opener. It can be challenging at times and the traffic can be a nuisance at rush hour but I like to be busy and I enjoy listening to the radio in the car in between visits - the round I do is all pretty local. I can really help and see the difference I make to people and the changes in them because of it and that's brilliant. I always joke with them and we make each other laugh.

'All my regulars are very friendly and they're so pleased to see me when I go in, they have such big smiles. It's fascinating too to be caring in the community I grew up in,' she continues. 'You never know what you'll find out. My Gran was the youngest of six and it turned out she was the aunt of one of my client's – although the client was forty years older than me – so we were second cousins and she had old photos of my Gran in her album!'

Another lady I look after was an art teacher – she struggles with dementia and so she isn't very talkative but when she opens up and shares something of her past it feels great. I was so surprised she had been the creative type as I'd never have expected it.

It's a pleasure to be giving back to other people what those carers gave to my Mum. It something we'll always appreciate and we'll never forget. It's totally different to what I've done before and I'm definitely happier now!'

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Kia Rio 1.0 T-GDi 'First Edition' Eco

Rio is like a carnival on the road

By **Tony Yates**

THANKS to a variety of upgrades - the new Kia Rio now feels a lot more in tune with the driver, and the looks aren't bad either.

The all-new Rio is offered with a 10-model line-up – based on four engines, three gearboxes and four trim levels, including a limited-run, luxuriously equipped 'First Edition' variant, which comes with the latest connectivity packages for the modern driver - along with modern fuel efficient engines and updated suspension and steering.

Power and efficiency

The 998cc engine is a four-cylinder turbocharged petrol engine that produces 118bhp and a maximum of 171- lb ft of torque, making it incredibly good at getting a move on quite quickly considering it's an eco car. 0-60mph comes in at around 9.8 seconds and if you add in the Start/Stop system, it will at a push return over 60mpg (combined). Flat out the Rio will reach a maximum speed of 118mph.

On the road

The new Rio handles well, and the grip levels are good – but I don't think it's as well planted as the cee'd though (no pun intended), but saying that it does do a pretty good job of keeping you on the road with very little fuss. The Rio also has no problems dealing with uneven surfaces and into the corners it feels well sorted out – and that's the surprise here when you think about the cost of the Rio compared to some of its rivals.

Equipment, safety and technology

The interior is fresh and all the buttons and dials are clear, even if they do look a little basic in appearance. The front seats have plenty of adjustment to them; feel well made and very comfortable. Rear leg room is also good and the boot space is fantastic. I also like the wide boot opening - this will help facilitate getting a large item inside the boot such as a pram or the weekly shopping.

Standard equipment across the range includes; air conditioning, front electric windows with an automatic function on the driver's side, remote locking, electrically adjustable heated door mirrors, Bluetooth, automatic light control, cornering lights and LED daytime running lights. There are also body-coloured bumpers, door mirror casings and door handles, steering wheel-mounted audio controls and 60:40 split rear seats. A four-speaker audio system is standard and safety provisions include ESC, VSM and Hill-start Assist Control to prevent the car from rolling backwards when setting off on steep inclines.

The 'First Edition' specification also adds; 17-inch alloys, a smart key entry system and engine start/stop button, stainless steel pedals, black and red faux leather upholstery and LED rear lights.

There are 10 models to choose from for the new Kia Rio

To sum up

The New Rio is now the car I always wanted it to be – thanks to Kia's clever design - and it's willingness to give the modern motorist everything they need, but without the premium price tag. What more could you possibly want.

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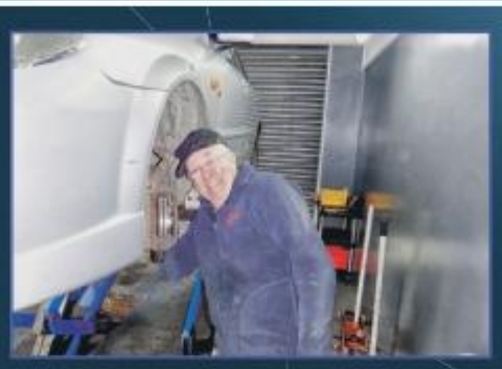

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Mokka X 1.6i Active on the road price £20,394.22 - Customer Deposit £199 - Part exchange allowance £5,000 - Total amount of credit £15,195.22 – 47 monthly payments of £199 – Optional final payment £5,842 - 0% APR on Personal Contract Plan - Total amount payable £20,394.22 based on 5,000 miles contract duration (other mileages available). Astra 1.4 SRi on the road price £18,649.79 – Customer Deposit £99 - Part exchange allowance £4,000 - Total amount of credit £14,550.79 – 47 monthly payments of £179 – Optional final payment £6,138 - 0% APR on Personal Contract Plan - Total amount payable £18,649.79 based on 5,000 miles contract duration (other mileages available). Corsa 1.4 Energy on the road price £12,639 - Customer Deposit £99 - Part exchange allowance £3,000 - Total amount of credit £9,540 – 60 monthly payments of £159 – 0% APR on Hire Purchase - Total amount payable £13,122.54 based on 5,000 miles contract duration (other mileages available). Pre-registered Viva SE normal on the road price £9,315 – Now £7,995 – Save £1,320 – Customer deposit £119 – Total amount of credit £7,876 – 48 monthly payments of £119 – Optional final payment £3,181 - 4.9% APR representative – total interest charges £898 – total amount payable £9,012 based on 6,000 miles contract duration (other mileages available). Pre-registered Meriva Life normal on the road price £14,270 – Now £9,995 – Save £4,275 - Customer deposit £159 – Total amount of credit £9,836 – 48 monthly payments of £159 – Optional final payment £3,567 - 4.9% APR representative – total interest charges £1,204 – total amount payable £11,358 based on 6,000 miles contract duration (other mileages available). †Scrappage allowance is regardless of age, condition or mileage however, it must be driveable and in your ownership for at least 6 months – this offer is available on selected vehicles only and subject to Eden Vauxhall availability. The minimum part exchange scrappage allowance is as part of a Vauxhall finance agreement and supersedes any other offers that may coincide. Finance subject to status. Terms & Conditions apply. 18's and over. Guarantee may be required. Offer ends 30th June 2017.

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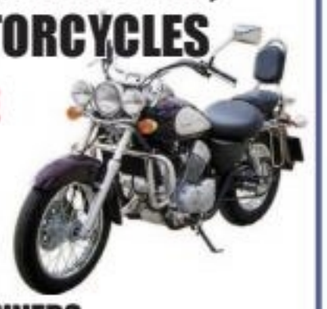

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EXERCISE bike as new £5 tel: 01865 351783

FISH kettle £5 tel: 01865 351783

NEW box set of 3LPs: Puccini Madama Butterfly £15 tel: 01865 863587

1970S Alladin Sane David Bowie small mirror 10" x 6" £10 tel: 01189 667940

CLAUD butler racing bike 14 gears good all round condition – offers tel: 01235 533363

WANTED: country blind collection frames tel: 01235 533363

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PINE bed with mattress double £50 ono tel: 01993 851454

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PINE coffee table very good condition, £20 ONO. Tel: 01993 705570.

15" television good working order. £20 ONO. 01993 705570.

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BAR kitchen high chair stools, two left. Light natural wood, good strong classical chair, £20. Tel: 07944 106694.

SET three square decanters in frame, clean good condition, approximately one pint each glass, £25. Tel: 07944 106694.

WANTED 1966 Kellogg's Sugar Smacks plastic Thunderbird models. Tel: 0118 667940.

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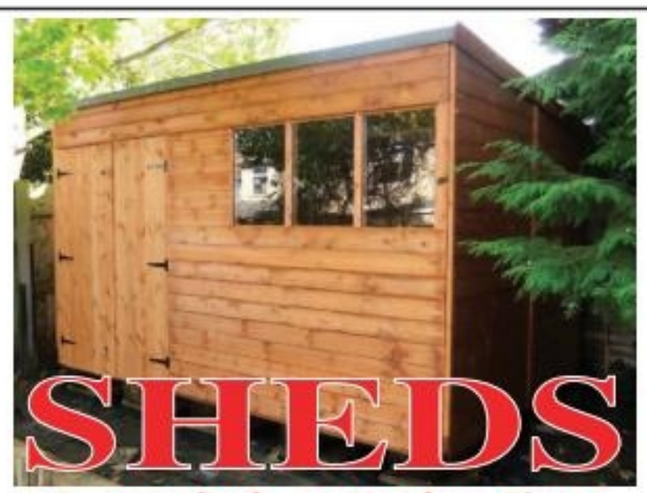

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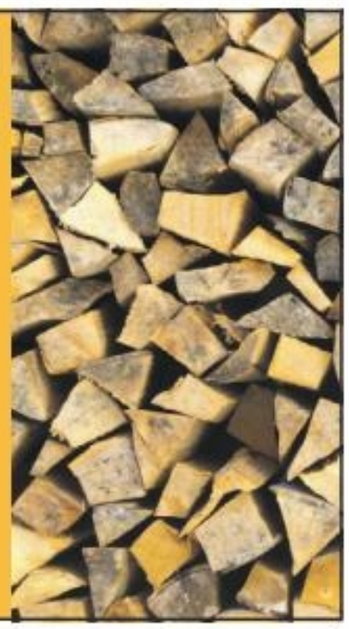

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Nifty shades of grey will make Haas identifiable

HAAS have given their cars a lick of paint ahead of the prestigious Monaco Grand Prix this weekend.

Gone are the splashes of red at the front, replaced by grey tones for the rest of the season.

New rules were introduced at the last race in Spain where the car numbers were required to be more visible. It is hoped the new colour scheme will help.

Banbury-based Haas will be hoping the new paint job will inspire them to success on the twisty Monaco circuit this weekend.

Team principal Guenther Steiner said: "For me, Monaco is a race like all the others. We're there to perform and score points, although it's always special due to the glitz and the glamour.

"The biggest difference with Monaco is the distance between everything. You have to walk a lot, so I would say it's one of the most logistically challenging circuits.

"And during the race it's quite intense, because if you make even a small mistake you can be in the wall.

"Overtaking is difficult too, so there is more pressure on Saturday during qualifying than there is on Sunday, because by Sunday the positions are set and unless something special happens, you end up where you start."

Nico bets on Monaco

Nico Hulkenberg finished sixth in Spain. Picture: Renault Sport Formula One Team

By Adam Flinn

AFTER picking up their best result since returning to Formula One last time out, Renault will be hoping for further improvement this weekend on the streets of Monaco.

Nico Hulkenberg came home sixth for the Enstone-based team in Spain, their best effort since coming back to the sport at the start of 2015.

Renault have shown good pace at times this season and are right in the mix of the midfield battle behind the big three teams of Mercedes, Ferrari and Red Bull.

And Hulkenberg is confident the tight nature of Monaco will suit his car this weekend and a good result should be up for grabs.

He said: "The track should suit us, especially with the supersoft and ultrasoft tyres.

"Last year I performed there quite well and with the new cars it will feel even quicker, so you need a good rhythm and a good harmony with yourself and the car to feel comfortable.

"Lap times can be tricky to find, but in recent years I have done well, so hopefully we can have another strong performance."

Team-mate Jolyon Palmer could desperately do with a decent result this weekend after struggling to get up to pace for much of the season.

Palmer has yet to score any points so far in 2017, but is looking forward to the challenge of Monaco.

He said: "It is really fun, there is nothing quite like it.

"From the moment you hit the brakes at Sainte Devote and up the hill it is one corner after another, super quick and very bumpy.

"It is pinpoint accuracy required and commitment for all of it, that is the challenge."

Williams will also want a better showing in Monaco, after the Spanish Grand Prix turned into a disaster for the Grove team.

Felipe Massa's race was ruined on lap one after clashing with Fernando Alonso's McLaren and getting a puncture, dropping him to the back.

Lance Stroll had a difficult afternoon with the tyres and was unable to break his points duck for the season.

In recent years Monaco hasn't been a strong track for Williams and they haven't finished higher than sixth in the principality since 2005.

Plato in the points – but not the top 10

JASON Plato had his best weekend of the British Touring Car Championship season so far, although he was still unable to break into the top 10 at Oulton Park on Sunday.

In what has been a miserable year for the Oxford racer so far, Plato did at least manage to pick up three finishes in the points at the Cheshire circuit.

He came home 12th, 11th and 11th in the three races to add to his only other finish in the points at the first round of the season.

But the veteran driver is still struggling with his Subaru Levorg, which his team-mate Ash Sutton seems to have adapted better to as he won race two on Sunday.

Plato meanwhile made up five places from his starting position of 17th in race one to finish 12th, although he did set the sixth fastest lap.

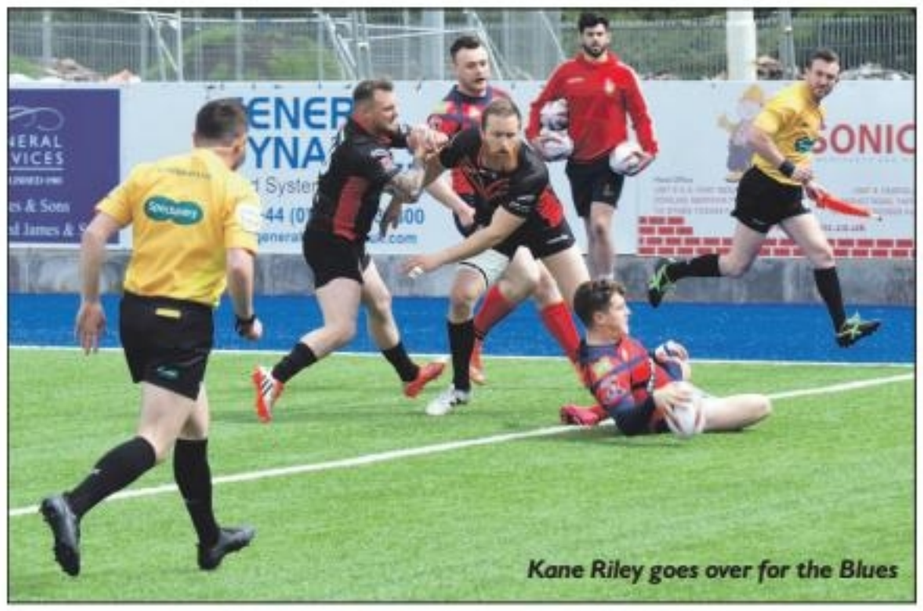
But he was unable to make much progress up the order after that, gaining just one place to 11th in race two and remaining there in race three.

The finishes do move Plato up to 20th in the standings however with 18 points.

Round five of the championship is at the Yorkshire circuit of Croft on June 11.

Jason Plato earned three points finishes at Oulton Park. Picture: btcc.net

Blues show their steel to beat Welsh Ironmen


Kane Riley goes over for the Blues

A PROFESSIONAL second half performance from Oxford RL at South Wales Ironmen helped the mid-table side to back-to-back league wins for the first time this season.

The Blues were tied 18-18 at half time but four unanswered second half tries fired Tim Rumford's side to a 38-18 win on Saturday.

It was the visitors who got the scoring going within five minutes when Kane Riley split open the Ironmen's defence to cross in the corner.

The pendulum swung several times throughout the first half as Oxford took the lead three times.

Marcus Brooker (15 minutes), Casey Canterbury (25) and Stuart Biscomb (31) crossed the line for Oxford but were constantly pinned back by Shaun Owens, former Blue Yannic Parker and Ross Price tries to send the teams in level at the buzzer.

However, the Blues were a different team in the second half as they ruthlessly brushed aside their struggling Welsh hosts.

First, good hands and a Brooker break released Josh Atkinson to rip down the touchline and score under the crossbar for Scott Fleming to convert.

More Blues goal-line pressure produced a try with London Broncos product Daniel Hindmarsh-Takji grounding the ball, following up another testing grubber kick, to extend the lead.

Callum Windley side-stepped and sprinted his way over with 15 minutes left on the clock and, with Fleming converting to make it 34-18, the match was once again firmly in Oxford's control.

Brooker crowned an outstanding performance with his second try as he burst through the line and won the long-range leg race to cap another solid display for the Blues.

The win elevated Rumford's side up a position to ninth in Kingstone Press League One.

Oxford have the weekend off but will host Whitehaven on June 4.

Saints blown away in Thunder storm

By George Welch

OXFORD Saints continue to adapt to their higher division after being brushed aside at runaway league leaders Sussex Thunder for the second time this season.

Despite an encouraging and pointless first quarter on Sunday, Saints were easily dismantled in the second and were trailing 19-0 at half time.

Saints fought back in the second half but were powerless to their superior hosts and were well-beaten 26-14 at Brighton Rugby Club.

Sussex opened the scoring with a pass from Eber Kington to Chris Evans who sprinted into the endzone on a 39-yard touchdown.

Andrew Stone kicked the extra point to get the Thunder up and running with a 7-0 lead.

Vince Valentine and Adam Fishlock scored Thunder's second and third touchdowns in quick succession.

Stone could only add one extra point but it mattered little for the hosts who commanded a 19-point lead heading into the second half.

Thunder extended their lead early in the third quarter on second down when Ben Chukwu-onu ran up the sideline for a 35-yard touchdown.

Stone kicked his third extra point of the afternoon through the uprights to extend the lead to an embarrassing 26-0.

Oxford limited Sussex to one try in the second half and had something to celebrate themselves when James Walter charged through from six yards to give the visitors their first touchdown. Rookie kicker Dean Fuller added the extra point.

Another march by the Saints offence ended with Walter scoring his – and his team's – second touchdown from close range.

Fuller kicked the extra point but there was to be no dramatic fightback as Thunder wound down the clock for their fifth win of the season.

Oxford are third out of five in Division 1 central conference with two wins and two defeats.

The Saints have a week for training and then travel back to Brighton for round three against the Sussex Thunder on June 4.

Rough and tumble during Saints game against Thunder last month
Picture: Chris Janes

Ice hockey in turmoil after teams resign

By George Welch

OXFORD City Stars directors say English ice hockey is in "turmoil" after a previously agreed revamped league structure was abandoned.

The National Ice Hockey League 1, which Stars were due to play in from September, was to be split into two localised conferences of six teams.

But last Friday the English Ice Hockey Association (EIHA) said this was not going ahead following the resignations of two teams. It would now be one league of 12 teams.

The Stars said on Friday the sport is in "turmoil", leaving them "disappointed and dismayed" and forcing them to apply for the third division.

As a result of the changes, clubs have to find tens of thousands of pounds in extra travel costs. Solent Devils and Chelmsford Chieftains resigned from the league.

Oxford directors said they wouldn't put the long-term future of the club at risk by committing to the new division.

It has now applied to be included in the third division.

Director James Schall said: "It's been a shattering and painful experience.

"All of a sudden on Friday morning we had to figure out what additional funding we needed to compete and then go find it, which has ultimately proved to be too tough.

"We passionately believed we should not put the long term health of the club at risk by spending money it didn't have to try and battle it out.

"This is an incredibly difficult choice, but our fans, coaches and players have been amazing in their support."

Mr Schall said the club wouldn't stand in the way of any players who want to try their hand in the new second tier.

"We had a handful of brilliant players who wanted to give it a go for Oxford and I personally feel we've let them down. I can only apologise for not being able to find the money necessary to support them in the new league."

The club is now waiting to hear from the EHIA on its application.

Season ticket sales have been temporarily suspended.

Young golfers battle the wind

THE sixth – and last – event of the Super Six Series on the British Junior Golf Tour was hosted in north Oxfordshire.

Boys and girls from across the country enjoyed the heathland course at the Tadmarton Heath Golf Club, near Banbury, which hosted the final series event at the end of last month.

In tricky windy conditions, Tiger Adams (Wellingborough, Northamptonshire) won the Elite Division with a gross 77 and Christian Wall (West Essex, Waltham Abbey, London) grabbed a debut victory in the Challenge Division with a score of 84.

With the younger players competing off age-related tees over nine holes, Amir Mallick-Bhatt (Pinner Hill, Harrow, London) took the 9-10 age group by one from Oliver Kelloway (Woburn, Buckinghamshire), while Joseph Aldous (Boringdon Park, Devon) clinched the 7-8 age category on countback.

One of the best rounds of the day came in the six and under age category as Matthew Whitaker (Nazeing, Essex) carded four pars and a birdie on the fifth hole in a winning 42.

For more details of the tour visit www.juniorgolftour.co.uk.

Christian Wall in action
Picture: The Photo Journalist

Eddie Pepperell in full swing

Pepperell is back in the money

ABINGDON golfer Eddie Pepperell is back in the money after an encouraging weekend at the Rocco Forte Open in Sicily.

The Frilford Heath member was part of the chasing pack after the first couple of days as he made the cut for just the second time this year.

The 26-year-old finished T38 to pick up €6,000 in prize money, just the second time he has won anything since October last year.

Pepperell enjoyed a superb start to the tournament and snuck into the top 25 after recording successive four under par rounds on Thursday and Friday.

He fired five birdies and an eagle in round one and carded four birdies in six holes in round two to trail the leader by five shots at the midway point.

But any hopes of a top 10 finish evaporated in the Mediterranean sun when he recorded four over par on Saturday.

Pepperell finished the tournament with a fourth round of one over par to card an overall three under par.

Spaniard Alvaro Quiros won the event, beating South African Zander Lombard in a sudden-death play-off after both finishing on 14 under par.

Pepperell tees off at the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth Club today.

Martinez hammering the door of first team after loan spell at U's

Striker admits to learning a lot during time at United

By George Welch

STRIKER Toni Martinez is ready to fight for a place in the West Ham United first team following a successful loan spell at Oxford United.

The Spaniard, who joined the U's from the Premier League club in January, admitted he improved a lot as a player from his half a season at the Kassam Stadium.

The 19-year-old, who scored three goals in 17 appearances for Oxford, missed the League One run-in due to injury but recovered to score a brace for West Ham United Under-23s last week.

His 13th and 14th goals of the season fired the West Ham youngsters to a 2-1 win at Newcastle United to secure promotion to Premier League 2 Division 1.

Martinez told the club's website he is ready to take the momentum into next season and impress Slaven Bilic, the West Ham boss.

He said: "I know how difficult it is to play for the first team and to break into the squad but I'm going to do my best to try and do this.

"I have been on loan and I enjoyed my time in Oxford very much.

"I learnt a lot. I learnt the game of playing direct football, physical football. I got lots of experience of dealing with this and long balls. It's a different game.

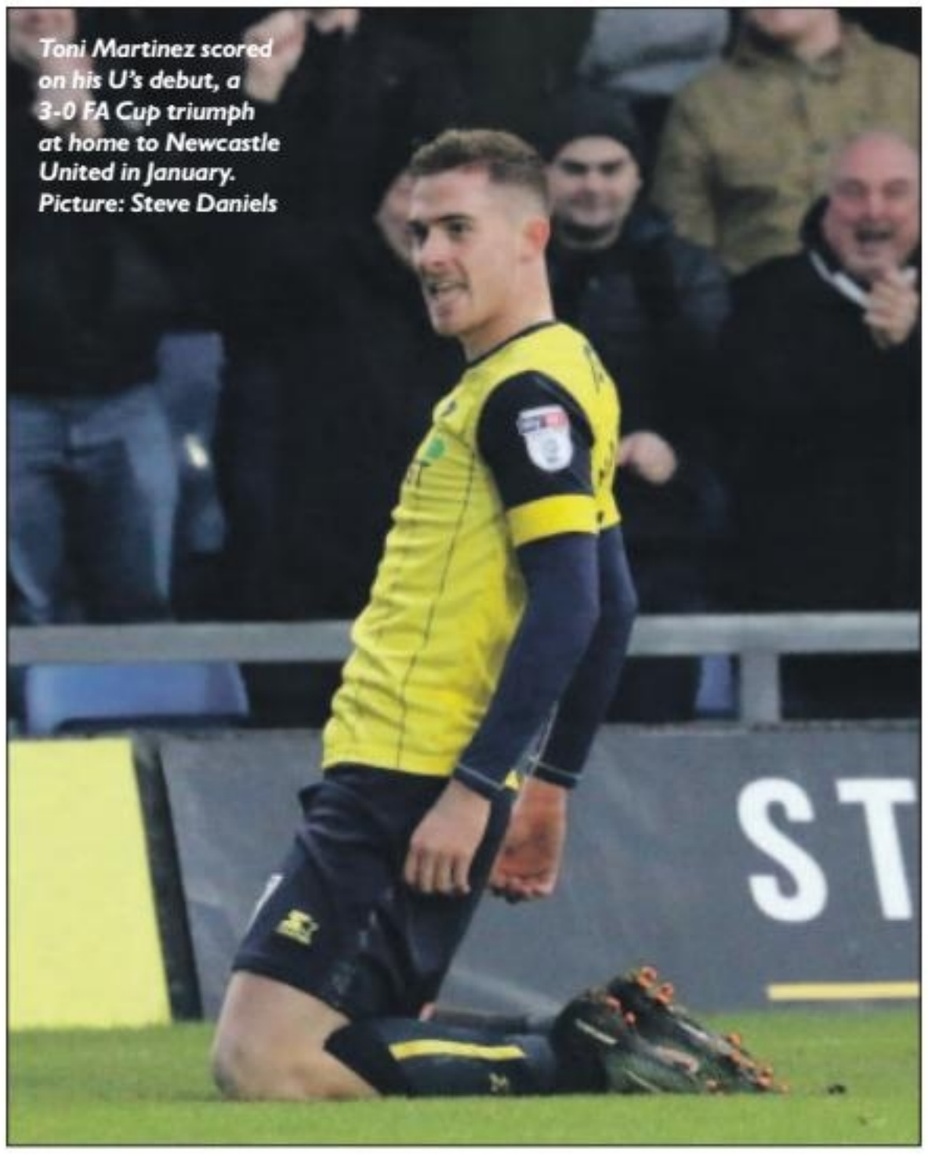
"It's a great end to the season for me and now I'm going to rest and be ready for pre-season."

Having fired Terry Westley's young PL2 team to promotion, Martinez, who joined West Ham from Spanish side Valencia for £2.5m last summer, was delighted to be back scoring in claret and blue.

He said: "I'm very happy to help the team and help them achieve this tonight. Now I'm looking forward to next season.

"We're so happy to get promoted. I just tried to do my work – scoring goals – and I'm very happy to have made this possible.

"I'm looking forward to next season now and I'm going to work very hard to get my opportunity – there's nothing more you can do."



Toni Martinez scored on his U's debut, a 3-0 FA Cup triumph at home to Newcastle United in January. Picture: Steve Daniels

Women drop clanger with defeat by Belles

OXFORD United Women's disappointing Spring Series campaign ended with a 4-0 thrashing against Doncaster Belles.

Rampant Doncaster scored two goals in each half at the Northcourt to condemn the U's to their heaviest defeat of the campaign.

An experimental U's side, whose bottom-place finish was confirmed before Sunday's finale, had the first meaningful effort via a cheeky Ellie Noble lob on five minutes.

The quality of the away side soon shone through however and right-back Mayumi Pacheco was a constant threat.

The defender found space and delivered a perfect cross for Christie Murray to tap home the opener on 23 minutes.

Kirsty Hanson doubled the south Yorkshire side's lead in the dying seconds of the first period with a chipped effort.

Two minutes into the second half Sophie Barker nipped in to loft the ball into the top corner for 3-0.

And Rebecca Raynor later slotted a rebound home to complete the rout.

Ellie Noble in action Picture: Oxford United Women

Season ticket sales off to a flying start

THE dust is only just settling on the SkyBet League One play-off final but Oxford United fans have wasted no time in getting behind their side for the next campaign.

Season ticket sales for 2017/18 had shot past the 1,000 mark last weekend.

United fans flocked to the Kassam Stadium to see their team play last term with a record 5,500 season ticket holders cheering the players to an eighth-placed finish – the club's highest finish since 1996.

Tickets went on sale on May 8 and the club, which hopes to exceed last season's sales, sold 1,000 seats in less than two weeks.

Existing season ticket holders have until 5.30pm on June 9 to renew their seats.

Prices for the new season start from £330 for adults but prices have been frozen in the family stand.

Chairman Darryl Eales has promised to donate £5 to Oxford United in the Community to help deliver football at all levels for every season ticket sold.

Season tickets are on sale from www.oufctickets.co.uk and by calling 01865 337533.

Mystery over future of star pair

Top scorer Chris Maguire

THE futures of star centre half Chey Dunkley and top scorer Chris Maguire remain shrouded in mystery.

Four youngsters have been told they won't be offered new deals at Oxford United.

Robbie Cundy, Jordan Graham, Jonny Giles and Miles Welch-Hayes have all been told by Michael Appleton, the Oxford boss, that their futures lie elsewhere.

Back-up goalkeeper Benjamin Buchel has also been told he can leave following last week's arrival of veteran stopper Scott Shearer.

Midfielder Josh Ashby has signed a new one-year deal to prove himself following a knee injury.

But there is no news on influential players Maguire – the club's top scorer with 15 goals in all competitions – and Dunkley, whose contacts are also set to expire at the end of next month.

Appleton said both players and the club would take their time before announcing the pair's futures.

He said: "I know fans like to see a retained list but it is no longer always a black and white decision.

"That's true on both sides – players and clubs both weigh up their options carefully these days so it's hard to get all those things in line immediately after the season ends."

Out-of-favour Liam Sercombe is likely to have a clause triggered to extend his contract by a year so the club can sell for a fee.

Appleton, who has a 45 per cent winning record since taking over in July 2014, said he doesn't expect major changes in the summer transfer window.

He added: "We had a very positive season and I don't imagine wholesale changes to the squad.

"I have talked with everyone and they all know where they stand.

"Some of the youngsters – Robbie Cundy, Jordan Graham, Jonny Giles and Miles Welch-Hayes – have been told they won't be offered a new deal, while the arrival of Scott Shearer means that Benji Buchel will also be leaving us.

"We thank them all for their efforts and wish them well.

"Josh Ashby has signed a new one-year deal while he recovers from a knee injury, but with everyone else it is a case of wait and see what develops.

"The situation can change very quickly and we hope to have one or two new faces in soon, exciting players we think will strengthen us in key positions.

"That obviously changes the picture for the other players and what we can offer them.

"All I would ask is for the fans to be a little patient.

"We are working extremely hard to get the right mix together to try and ensure we have another successful season."

Centre half Chey Dunkley

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Bradley Smith's elbow grazes the ground as he leans into a turn
Pictures: Gold and Goose

Bradley Smith pulls a wheelie

Smith says 'sorry' to team for poor start

By George Welch

AN apologetic Bradley Smith lamented a poor start but celebrated his team's record point haul for the season at the Le Mans GP.

The Forest Hill rider finished 13th – his highest position this campaign – in France on Sunday.

Teammate Pol Espargaro crossed the line in 12th to collect a total of seven points for KTM Red Bull.

That tally is the most Smith's new team has taken in the new-for-2017 MotoGP project.

But Smith, who finished half a second behind his teammate, should have used the momentum from a record qualifying campaign to climb up the standings.

He said: "I have to apologise to the team as my start wasn't the best one and I ran off track three times. I definitely left a few seconds out on track, but the bike felt good.

"Over the weekend we took the opportunities with both hands, going straight through to Q2 [second qualifying] which was the highlight.

"In the race we settled a bit further back but stayed focused and finished with points, which is the target."

The 26-year-old picked up three points on Sunday – one more than the previous race in Jerez – to take his tally for the season to six.

He added: "We must be proud of ourselves this weekend and we will keep on improving like always.

"We will keep on moving forward and scoring these points every weekend and picking up on improvements, learning a lot and learning from my teammate [Espargaro].

"I battled with him over the last few laps so I can see what he has and what I have."

Team manager Mike Leitner praised the pair.

He said: "It's the best result we have achieved this year. It's great to see this – it means the whole weekend was very positive with the steps we have made.

"It finished positively with points for both riders."

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